
By: **Delegates Stern, Amedori, Bartlett, Bobo, Bohanan, Cane, G. Clagett, V. Clagett, Conway, Cryor, Dumais, Edwards, Elliott, Feldman, Frush, Glassman, Hogan, Hutchins, James, Jameson, Jennings, Kaiser, Lee, Marriott, McComas, McConkey, McHale, Mitchell, Montgomery, Morhaim, O'Donnell, Owings, Parrott, Pendergrass, Quinter, Rudolph, Shank, Sossi, Stocksdale, Stull, Taylor, F. Turner, Weldon, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2003

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Marketing of Grain and Other Agricultural Products**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on the Marketing of Grain and Other
4 Agricultural Products; specifying the membership and duties of the Task Force;
5 requiring the Governor to designate a certain Task Force chairman; requiring
6 the Department of Agriculture to provide certain staffing; prohibiting a Task
7 Force member from receiving certain compensation and authorizing the receipt
8 of certain reimbursement; requiring the Task Force to report to certain persons
9 by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
10 relating to the establishment, membership, and duties of the Task Force on the
11 Marketing of Grain and Other Agricultural Products.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force on the Marketing of Grain and Other Agricultural
15 Products.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
18 of the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;

22 (4) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the
23 Secretary's designee;

24 (5) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

1 (6) the Executive Director of the Maryland Port Administration, or the
2 Executive Director's designee;

3 (7) one member of the Maryland Farm Bureau;

4 (8) one member of the Maryland Grain Producers Association;

5 (9) one representative of the ocean shipping industry;

6 (10) one representative of the trucking industry;

7 (11) one representative of the rail industry;

8 (12) one representative of the barge industry;

9 (13) two licensed grain dealers; and

10 (14) one representative of MidAtlantic Farm Credit.

11 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

12 (d) The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff for the Task Force.

13 (e) A member of the Task Force:

14 (1) may not receive compensation; but

15 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
16 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

17 (f) The Task Force shall:

18 (1) evaluate options and develop strategies for the marketing of grain,
19 particularly soybeans, and other State agricultural products, including an analysis of
20 the feasibility of:

21 (i) rebuilding and reopening the Port of Baltimore Grain Terminal;
22 and

23 (ii) the establishment of new transport options from alternative
24 locations in Central Maryland;

25 (2) examine potential costs to the State and private industry for each
26 option and strategy identified under paragraph (1) of this subsection;

27 (3) examine potential funding sources for identified options and
28 strategies, including federal grant and loan programs, private loans and other
29 investment vehicles, and any other available funding mechanisms; and

30 (4) solicit and encourage participation from other persons impacted by
31 the topics under study by the Task Force but not serving as Task Force members,

1 including farmers and other agriculturally related businesses in neighboring states
2 and members of Congress representing these regional interests.

3 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
4 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
5 Assembly on or before December 31, 2003.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 June 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 8 months and, at the end of
8 January 31, 2004, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.