
By: **Delegate G. Clagett**

Introduced and read first time: March 3, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Management and Protection of the State's Water**
3 **Resources**

4 FOR the purpose of creating a Task Force on the Management and Protection of the
5 State's Water Resources; establishing the membership of the Task Force;
6 requiring the Governor to designate a chairman of the Task Force; providing for
7 staffing of the Task Force; providing that members of the Task Force may not
8 receive compensation but are entitled to a certain reimbursement; establishing
9 the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor
10 and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
11 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on the
12 Management and Protection of the State's Water Resources.

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force on the Management and Protection of the State's
16 Water Resources.

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

18 (1) a member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
19 House;

20 (2) a member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
21 the Senate;

22 (3) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

23 (4) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
24 designee;

25 (5) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;

26 (6) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

1 (7) the Special Secretary of the Office of Smart Growth, or the Special
2 Secretary's designee; and

3 (8) up to 14 members appointed by the Governor to include
4 representatives of:

5 (i) county and municipal government;

6 (ii) environmental interest organizations;

7 (iii) the agricultural and business community;

8 (iv) research institutions; and

9 (v) other individuals from the general public with relevant interest
10 or expertise.

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

12 (d) The Department of the Environment 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) review the latest information from State, local, and federal agencies
19 concerning assessments of the quality and quantity of the management and
20 protection of the State's ground and surface water resources;

21 (2) review the results of ongoing scientific research regarding climate
22 change and its regional impacts on aquifer depletion and recharging models;

23 (3) review local, State, and federal laws, regulations, and policies related
24 to the management, development, conservation, and protection of ground and surface
25 water resources;

26 (4) assess the adequacy of existing governmental resources, regulatory
27 enforcement, and monitoring programs that are available for the management,
28 development, conservation, and protection of the State's ground and surface water
29 resources;

30 (5) develop models to assess trends regarding the State's major aquifers;

31 (6) make recommendations regarding additional actions, studies,
32 policies, regulations, or laws necessary to assure that the management and protection

1 of the State's surface and ground water resources are conducted in a manner
2 consistent with their long-term, sustainable use and protection; and

3 (7) provide a cost estimate and funding alternatives for each
4 recommendation the Task Force makes.

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

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 June 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 8 months and, at the end of
10 January 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
11 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.