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CHAPTER _____

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;

- 1 (3) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;
- 2 (4) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the
3 Secretary's designee;
- 4 (5) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;
- 5 (6) the Executive Director of the Maryland Port Administration, or the
6 Executive Director's designee;
- 7 (7) one member of the Maryland Farm Bureau;
- 8 (8) one member of the Maryland Grain Producers Association;
- 9 (9) one representative of the ocean shipping industry;
- 10 (10) one representative of the trucking industry;
- 11 (11) one representative of the rail industry;
- 12 (12) one representative of the barge industry;
- 13 (13) two licensed grain dealers; and
- 14 (14) one representative of MidAtlantic Farm Credit.

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

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

17 (e) A member of the Task Force:

18 (1) may not receive compensation; but

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

21 (f) The Task Force shall:

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

25 (i) ~~rebuilding and reopening~~ reestablishing a grain export facility
26 at the Port of Baltimore Grain Terminal; and

27 (ii) ~~the establishment of~~ establishing new transport options from
28 alternative locations in Central Maryland;

29 (2) implement through the Maryland Port Administration a feasibility
30 study of the short-term and long-term economic viability of a grain shipping facility

1 at the Port of Baltimore, including the Locust Point Marine terminal, and evaluate
2 and make recommendations regarding the study;

3 ~~(2)~~ (3) examine potential costs to the State and private industry for
4 each option and strategy identified under paragraph (1) of this subsection;

5 ~~(3)~~ (4) examine potential funding sources for identified options and
6 strategies, including federal grant and loan programs, private loans and other
7 investment vehicles, and any other available funding mechanisms; and

8 ~~(4)~~ (5) solicit and encourage participation from other persons impacted
9 by the topics under study by the Task Force but not serving as Task Force members,
10 including farmers and other agriculturally related businesses in neighboring states
11 and members of Congress representing these regional interests.

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

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