
By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Licensing**
3 **Boaters - Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Licensing
5 Boaters in the State; providing for the membership of the Task Force; requiring
6 the Governor to appoint the chair of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to
7 study certain policy, administrative, security, and economic issues surrounding
8 the establishment of a State boating license and to make certain
9 recommendations; providing for reimbursement of the expenses of a member of
10 the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the
11 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of
12 this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of the Task Force to Study
13 the Feasibility of Licensing Boaters in the State.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Licensing Boaters in the
17 State.

18 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

19 (1) a member of the Maryland House of Delegates appointed by the
20 Speaker of the House;

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

23 (3) two representatives of the Department of Natural Resources, one of
24 whom shall be a Natural Resources Police Officer, appointed by the Secretary of
25 Natural Resources;

26 (4) a representative of the Motor Vehicle Administration appointed by
27 the Motor Vehicle Administrator; and

28 (5) three persons appointed by the Governor, including:

1 (i) a representative of an organization that represents the interests
2 of boaters in the State; and

3 (ii) an owner and operator of a marina in the State.

4 (c) The Governor shall appoint the chair of the Task Force.

5 (d) The Task Force shall:

6 (1) study the feasibility of licensing boaters in the State, including issues
7 regarding:

8 (i) out-of-state boaters; and

9 (ii) Maryland residents who register a boat in another state;

10 (2) study security issues involved in issuing a boating license, and
11 whether a boating license could be issued in conjunction with a Maryland driver's
12 license;

13 (3) study the benefits and costs associated with establishing a State
14 boating license, including the benefits of increased boater safety;

15 (4) study methods of incorporating boater safety education into a boating
16 licensing mechanism;

17 (5) consider the effect of a boating license requirement on tourism and
18 economic development;

19 (6) survey actions taken by other states to address concerns regarding
20 boating safety; and

21 (7) make any recommendations with respect to the feasibility and
22 desirability of establishing and implementing a State boating license.

23 (e) A member of the Task Force:

24 (1) may not receive compensation; but

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

27 (f) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff support for the
28 Task Force.

29 (g) The Task Force shall issue a final report of its findings and
30 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government
31 Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2003.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
33 effect June 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end

1 of December 31, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
2 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.