

SENATE BILL 765

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2003 Regular Session  
3r2672  
CF HB 652

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By: **Senator Middleton**

Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of Session

Introduced and read first time: March 7, 2003

Rules suspended

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing an Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force;  
4 providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for the  
5 appointment of a chairperson of the Task Force; providing for staffing of the  
6 Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain  
7 compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive  
8 reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report to the  
9 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for  
10 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of an  
11 Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force.

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

14 (a) There is an Unemployment Insurance Funding Task Force to study  
15 taxation and charging for purposes of funding the Unemployment Insurance Trust  
16 Fund.

17 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following 10 members:

18 (1) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President 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 the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation,  
22 or the Secretary's designee;

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

25 (5) a representative of the Maryland Retailers Association;

1 (6) a member of the general public;

2 (7) a representative of union labor; and

3 (8) a representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

4 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall appoint  
5 the member of the general public, and shall jointly designate the chairperson from  
6 among the members of the Task Force.

7 (d) The Task Force shall examine:

8 (1) the fairness of the existing charging and taxation system under  
9 current Maryland Unemployment Insurance law, taking into consideration the  
10 impact on small, medium, and large employers across a variety of industries;

11 (2) the need for altering the current system of charging and taxation in  
12 order to maintain the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund at a level sufficient to  
13 ensure that benefits will be paid from the Fund; and

14 (3) the impact of changes in the national and State economies and their  
15 relationship to changes in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

16 (e) The Task Force shall make specific recommendations, including  
17 developing draft legislation, on what steps might be taken to ensure that payments  
18 into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund remain adequate and equitable for  
19 both employees and employers.

20 (f) The Department of Legislative Services, with assistance from the  
21 Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, shall provide staffing for the Task  
22 Force.

23 (g) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on  
24 the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
25 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

26 (h) On or before December 1, 2003, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
27 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government  
28 Article, to the General Assembly.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 June 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of  
31 December 31, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
32 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.