

SENATE BILL 765

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2003 Regular Session
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CF HB 652

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 22, 2003

CHAPTER _____

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~~ 11 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;

1 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation,
2 or the Secretary's designee;

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

5 (5) a representative of the Maryland Retailers Association, designated by
6 the Maryland Retailers Association;

7 (6) ~~a member of the general public~~ representative of the Job
8 Opportunities Task Force, designated by the Job Opportunities Task Force;

9 (7) a representative of ~~union labor; and~~ employees, designated jointly by
10 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

11 (8) a representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, designated
12 by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce; and

13 (9) a representative of the academic profession who is knowledgeable in
14 unemployment insurance law, designated jointly by the President of the Senate and
15 the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

16 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall
17 appoint ~~the member of the general public, and shall jointly designate the chairperson~~
18 ~~from among the members of the Task Force.~~ co-chairs from among the Senate and
19 House members appointed to the Task Force.

20 (d) The Task Force shall examine:

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

24 (2) the fairness of the existing eligibility and benefit provisions under
25 current Maryland Unemployment Insurance law;

26 ~~(2)~~ (3) the need for altering the current system of charging and
27 taxation in order to maintain the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund at a level
28 sufficient to ensure that benefits will be paid from the Fund; and

29 ~~(3)~~ (4) the impact of changes in the national and State economies and
30 their relationship to changes in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

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

1 (f) The Department of Legislative Services, ~~with assistance from~~ in
2 consultation with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, shall provide
3 staffing for the Task Force.

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

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

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