
By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2005

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of the State's Water**
3 **Resources**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing an Advisory Committee on the Management and
5 Protection of the State's Water Resources; providing for the membership and
6 duties of the Committee; providing for the appointment of the chair of the
7 Committee; providing for the staffing of the Committee; prohibiting a member of
8 the Committee from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of
9 the Committee to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the
10 Committee to report to the General Assembly by a certain date; requiring the
11 Committee to include a certain recommendation in its report to the General
12 Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the
13 establishment of an Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of
14 the State's Water Resources.

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, Marylanders use almost 1.5 billion gallons of fresh water each day;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Drought, pollution, population growth, inadequate planning and
19 infrastructure, and incomplete information about water sources and population
20 growth can all threaten the quality and quantity of Maryland's water resources; and

21 WHEREAS, Executive Order 01.01.2003.08 established the Advisory Committee
22 on the Management and Protection of the State's Water Resources to advise and
23 assist the State in implementing programs and policies relating to the management,
24 development, conservation, and protection of the State's water resources; and

25 WHEREAS, The Committee submitted a final report to the Governor on May 28,
26 2004; and

27 WHEREAS, The Committee found that time constraints did not allow a
28 thorough review of each subject in Executive Order 01.01.2003.08; and

1 WHEREAS, The Committee recommended in its final report that the State
2 continue the Committee's comprehensive evaluation of the State's water resources,
3 and report the evaluations at regular intervals to ensure consistency with changing
4 demographics and resource conditions; now, therefore,

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
6 MARYLAND, That:

7 (a) There is an Advisory Committee on the Management and Protection of the
8 State's Water Resources.

9 (b) The Committee shall consist of up to 21 members who, to the extent
10 possible, shall be the same members who served on the committee established by
11 Executive Order 01.01.2003.08, including:

12 (1) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
13 the House;

14 (2) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
15 of the Senate;

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

17 (4) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
18 designee;

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

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

21 (7) The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee; and

22 (8) Up to 14 members, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate
23 and the Speaker of the House, including representatives of county and municipal
24 government, environmental interest organizations, the agricultural and business
25 communities, research institutions, and other individuals from the general public
26 with relevant interest or expertise.

27 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall
28 appoint the chair from among the members of the Committee;

29 (d) The Committee shall continue the comprehensive evaluation of the State's
30 water resources begun by the committee established by Executive Order
31 01.01.2003.08, and shall perform the duties required under Executive Order
32 01.01.2003.08, including:

33 (1) Review the latest information from State, local, and federal agencies
34 concerning assessments of the management and protection of the quality and
35 quantity of the State's ground and surface water resources;

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

3 (3) Review local, State, and federal laws, regulations, and policies
4 related to the management, development, conservation, and protection of ground and
5 surface water resources;

6 (4) Assess the adequacy of existing governmental resources, regulatory
7 enforcement, and monitoring programs that are available for the management,
8 development, conservation, and protection of the State's ground and surface water
9 resources;

10 (5) Develop models to assess trends regarding the State's major aquifers;
11 and

12 (6) (i) Recommend additional actions, studies, policies, regulations, or
13 laws necessary to assure that management and protection of the State's ground and
14 surface water resources are conducted in a manner consistent with their long-term
15 sustainable use and protection; and

16 (ii) Provide a cost estimate and funding alternatives for
17 implementation of each recommendation.

18 (e) The Department of the Environment shall provide staffing for the
19 Committee.

20 (f) A member of the Committee may not receive compensation for serving on
21 the Committee but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
22 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

23 (g) The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the
24 General Assembly no later than December 31, 2006.

25 (h) The Committee shall include in its report to the General Assembly a
26 recommendation on whether there is a need for the Committee to continue to evaluate
27 the State's water resources after June 30, 2007.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 June 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the
30 end of June 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
31 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.