
By: **Senator Giannetti**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Establishing a Business and Technology Division in Circuit**
3 **Court**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Establishing a Business and
5 Technology Division in Circuit Court; establishing the membership of the Task
6 Force; providing for the chair of the Task Force; providing staff support for the
7 Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
8 compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to be reimbursed for
9 certain expenses; providing for the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task
10 Force to issue a report by a certain date; providing for the termination of the
11 Task Force; and generally relating to the Task Force on Establishing a Business
12 and Technology Division in Circuit Court.

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force on Establishing a Business and Technology Division
16 in Circuit Court.

17 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

18 (1) three members of the judiciary, appointed by the Chief Judge of the
19 Court of Appeals;

20 (2) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
21 of the Senate;

22 (3) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
23 of the House;

24 (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

25 (i) one representative of the Maryland State Bar Association;

26 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association;

27 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Defense Council, Inc.;

- 1 (iv) one representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;
2 (v) one representative each of a large and a small biotechnology
3 company;
4 (vi) one representative each of a large and a small data technology
5 company; and
6 (vii) one representative each of a large and a small access
7 transmission company.

8 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

9 (d) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Task
10 Force.

11 (e) A member of the Task Force:

12 (i) may not receive compensation; but

13 (ii) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
14 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

15 (f) The Task Force shall:

16 (i) assess and evaluate the current case management program for
17 business and technology cases under Maryland Rule 16-205;

18 (ii) study the federal statutes and court rules and other states' statutes
19 and court rules on the handling of business and technology matters;

20 (iii) seek input from both the Maryland business community and legal
21 community;

22 (iv) recommend a plan to establish a separate business and technology
23 division in each circuit in the State; and

24 (v) recommend legislation and changes to the Maryland Rules to
25 implement the recommendations of the Task Force.

26 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
27 Governor, the Court of Appeals, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
28 Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2005.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 June 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of
31 December 31, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
32 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.