

BY: Economic Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1670

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, before “Liquefied” insert “Baltimore County”; strike beginning with “Facilities” in line 2 down through “County” in line 3 and substitute “Task Force”; strike beginning with “prohibiting” in line 4 down through “facilities” in line 9 and substitute “establishing a Baltimore County Liquefied Natural Gas Task Force; providing for the composition and duties of the Task Force; requiring the Department of the Environment to provide staffing for the Task Force; prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving compensation, but authorizing certain reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report certain findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Baltimore County Liquefied Natural Gas Task Force”; and strike in their entirety lines 10 through 14, inclusive, and substitute:

“Preamble

WHEREAS, The demand in the United States for natural gas for residential and industrial use and for power generation is increasing rapidly and the United States now relies on natural gas for nearly one quarter of its energy use; and

WHEREAS, Projections indicate that consumption of natural gas in North America will soon outpace production; and

WHEREAS, Technology has made the importation of natural gas in its liquefied form feasible and cost effective, and imports of liquefied natural gas to the United States are expected to sharply increase in the next decade; and

WHEREAS, An overwhelming majority of the residents of the area have voiced their

(Over)

opposition to the proposed facility; and

WHEREAS, A liquefied natural gas facility has been proposed for the Sparrows Point area in eastern Baltimore County; and

WHEREAS, The public has a compelling interest in obtaining comprehensive, factual, and, objective information regarding the siting and safety of liquefied natural gas facilities; and

WHEREAS, Objective and accurate information about liquefied natural gas, including, most importantly, the safety aspects surrounding siting decisions should be readily available to communities near a proposed liquefied natural gas import terminal facility; and

WHEREAS, The public is entitled to know about other important aspects relating to a liquefied natural gas facility in the Sparrows Point area, such as:

(1) the effect on recreational and commercial boating and fishing;

(2) the impacts on the environment, especially on water quality, resulting from the dredging required to locate a liquefied natural gas facility in the area, and the large amounts of contaminated dredged material that will result; and

(3) the impact on residential property owners in the vicinity of the facility, particularly their ability to retain access to their properties via water; and

WHEREAS, Representatives of local communities that may be impacted by the siting decisions involving liquefied natural gas facilities should participate in the siting process; now, therefore,.”

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 16, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 17 on page 1 through line 22 on page 2, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) There is a Baltimore County Liquefied Natural Gas Task Force.

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

(1) four members from the scientific, environmental, and energy communities, jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

- (2) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, or the Chairman's designee;
 - (3) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (4) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (5) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the Director's designee;
 - (6) three members nominated by the Senator representing the Maryland legislative district in which the proposed liquefied natural gas facility in eastern Baltimore County is proposed to be sited, subject to approval of the President of the Senate; and
 - (7) three members nominated by the Delegates representing the Maryland legislative district in which the proposed liquefied natural gas facility in eastern Baltimore County is proposed to be sited, subject to approval of the Speaker of the House of Delegates.
- (c) The Task Force shall elect the chair of the Task Force from among its members.
 - (d) The Department of the Environment shall provide staff for the Task Force.
 - (e) A member of the Task Force:
 - (1) may not receive compensation; but
 - (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
 - (f) The Task Force shall study:
 - (1) the risks and hazards of a liquefied natural gas production, storage, or regassification facility;

(2) the kind and use of the proposed production, storage, or regassification facility;

(3) the current and projected population and demographic characteristics of the location of the proposed production, storage, or regassification facility;

(4) the current and proposed land use near the location of the proposed production, storage, or regassification facility;

(5) the natural and physical aspects of the proposed location;

(6) the emergency response capabilities near the proposed facility location;

(7) the need and appropriate distance for remote siting;

(8) the effect of the proposed facility location on recreational and commercial boating and fishing and crabbing in the area;

(9) the impact on the environment, especially on water quality, due to the quality of the dredged material from the large scale dredging that is intended to be undertaken to accommodate the ships transporting the liquefied natural gas; and

(10) the impact on the ability of residential property owners near the proposed facility to retain access to their properties by way of the waterway.

(g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before December 31, 2006.”.

On page 2, in line 24, strike “October 1, 2006” and substitute “July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of July 31, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect”.