

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Smigiel**

Requested: August 29, 2005

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Create Standards of Ethics for Planning and Zoning Boards**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Create Standards of Ethics for
4 Planning and Zoning Boards; providing for the membership and staffing of the
5 Task Force; requiring the Task Force to create certain ethical standards for
6 planning and zoning boards; requiring the Task Force to make
7 recommendations with regard to ethical policies and procedures for planning
8 and zoning boards; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the
9 General Assembly on or before a certain date; prohibiting members of the Task
10 Force from receiving certain compensation but authorizing the reimbursement
11 of certain expenses; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
12 relating to a Task Force to Create Standards of Ethics for Planning and Zoning
13 Boards.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Create Standards of Ethics for Planning and
17 Zoning Boards.

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

19 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
20 the Senate;

21 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
22 the House;

23 (3) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

24 (i) one representative from the State Commission on Ethics;

25 (ii) one representative from Common Cause;

1 (iii) one member of the community with special knowledge,
2 experience, and expertise related to land use planning, nominated by the Secretary of
3 Planning; and

4 (iv) two individuals with academic knowledge, experience, and
5 expertise in ethics.

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

7 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task
8 Force.

9 (e) A member of the Task Force:

10 (1) may not receive compensation; but

11 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
12 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

13 (f) The Task Force shall:

14 (1) examine and determine what should constitute a per se ethical
15 violation for planning and zoning board members and attorneys appearing before a
16 board; and

17 (2) make recommendations, to be implemented statewide, regarding
18 ethical policies and procedures for planning and zoning boards.

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

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 June 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of
24 December 31, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
25 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.