
By: **Delegates Hixson, Bozman, Healey, Howard, Marriott, and Patterson**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2006

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Tax Reform in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission on Tax Reform in Maryland to review
4 and evaluate the State's current tax structure and make certain
5 recommendations; providing for the membership and staffing of the
6 Commission; prohibiting members of the Commission from receiving certain
7 compensation but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring
8 a report by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and
9 generally relating to the Commission on Tax Reform in Maryland.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That:

12 (a) There is a Commission on Tax Reform in Maryland.

13 (b) The Commission shall review and evaluate the State's current tax
14 structure and make specific recommendations for:

15 (1) any changes to the income, sales, property, business, and excise taxes
16 that would ensure that the State will have a fair and equitable tax structure;

17 (2) the expansion or repeal of existing tax incentives, including tax
18 credits and tax exemptions, provided by the State; and

19 (3) how the General Assembly may better evaluate the effectiveness and
20 efficiency of tax incentives currently offered.

21 (c) To the extent possible, the recommendations made by the Commission
22 shall maintain and ensure revenue neutrality for the State.

23 (d) The Commission shall be composed of 15 members, as follows:

24 (1) a Chairman, appointed by the Governor;

25 (2) four members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,
26 appointed by the President of the Senate;

1 (3) four members of the House Committee on Ways and Means,
2 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

3 (4) the Comptroller of the Treasury, or the Comptroller's designee;

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

6 (6) the Director of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, or
7 the Director's designee;

8 (7) a representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

9 (8) a representative of the Maryland Municipal League; and

10 (9) a representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

11 (e) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff support to the
12 Commission.

13 (f) A member of the Commission:

14 (1) may not receive compensation; but

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

17 (g) The Commission shall submit a report of its findings and
18 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
19 Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2006.

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