

---

By: **Delegate Simmons**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                           **Task Force to Study the Sound Barrier Policy of the State Highway**  
3                           **Administration**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Sound Barrier Policy of the  
5 State Highway Administration; specifying the membership and duties of the  
6 Task Force; providing for the appointment of a chair of the Task Force;  
7 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation;  
8 authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain  
9 expenses; providing for staffing of the Task Force; providing for meetings of the  
10 Task Force; authorizing the Task Force to hold public hearings; requiring the  
11 Task Force to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a  
12 certain date; requiring the Task Force to evaluate the effectiveness of the  
13 Administration's sound barrier policy and to consider certain factors; providing  
14 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study  
15 the Sound Barrier Policy of the State Highway Administration.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That:

18       (a)       There is a Task Force to Study the Sound Barrier Policy of the State  
19 Highway Administration.

20       (b)       The Task Force shall consist of the following seven members:

21               (1)       Two members from the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
22 of the House;

23               (2)       Two members from the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
24 President of the Senate; and

25               (3)       Three members appointed by the Governor.

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

27       (d)       Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation except that  
28 the members may be reimbursed for expenses under the Standard State Travel  
29 Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

1 (e) The State Highway Administration shall provide staff support for the Task  
2 Force to the extent possible within existing budgeted resources.

3 (f) The Task Force shall meet at least once a month at the call of the chair.

4 (g) The Task Force is authorized to hold public hearings.

5 (h) The Task Force shall evaluate the effectiveness of the State Highway  
6 Administration's sound barrier policy, and consider any changes in residential growth  
7 or development since the sound barrier policy was established.

8 (i) The Task Force shall issue a final report of its findings and  
9 recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government  
10 Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2007.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 July 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the  
13 end of December 31, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
14 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.