
By: **Delegates Cardin, Haddaway, Aumann, Cluster, Elmore, Frank, Frush,
Impallaria, Kaiser, King, Moe, Morhaim, Ramirez, and Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Sewage Sludge as an Alternative Energy Source**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Sewage Sludge as an Alternative
4 Energy Source; establishing the membership and staffing of the Task Force;
5 requiring the Governor to designate the chair of the Task Force; authorizing the
6 Task Force to establish certain subcommittees; requiring the Task Force to
7 evaluate and make recommendations regarding certain issues; requiring the
8 Task Force to submit a preliminary and final report to the Governor and
9 General Assembly and its committees regarding the recommendations by a
10 certain date; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
11 compensation, but authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive certain
12 reimbursements; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
13 relating to the Task Force on Sewage Sludge as an Alternative Energy Source.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force on Sewage Sludge as an Alternative Energy Source.

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

18 (1) Two members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;

20 (2) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;

21 (3) The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

22 (4) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
23 designee;

24 (5) The Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

25 (6) The Director of the Maryland Environmental Service, or the
26 Director's designee;

1 (7) The Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the
2 Director's designee; and

3 (8) The following members, appointed by the Governor:

4 (i) One representative from the Maryland Municipal League;

5 (ii) One representative from Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal
6 Authority;

7 (iii) One representative from Kershner Environmental
8 Technologies, LLC;

9 (iv) One representative from the cement industry;

10 (v) One representative from 1000 Friends of Maryland;

11 (vi) One representative from the University of Maryland's Civil and
12 Environmental Engineering Department;

13 (vii) One representative from the Center for Environmental Energy
14 Engineering in the University of Maryland's Department of Mechanical Engineering;

15 (viii) One representative from the International Center for
16 Sustainable Development based in Maryland; and

17 (ix) Two representatives from a local government's zoning and
18 planning team, preferably one person from a rural area and the other from a densely
19 populated area.

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

21 (d) The Task Force may establish subcommittees as it determines necessary to
22 fulfill its duties.

23 (e) The Department of the Environment shall provide staff for the Task Force.

24 (f) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on
25 the Task Force but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
26 State Travel Regulation, as provided in the State budget.

27 (g) The Task Force shall:

28 (1) Evaluate and make recommendations regarding methods of
29 facilitating the use of sewage sludge as an alternative energy source, such as fuel for
30 a cement kiln, including:

31 (i) Studying the estimated annual impact on State and local
32 revenues, including the costs of administering a conversion program;

1 (ii) Evaluating environmental benefits and costs of converting
2 sewage sludge to an alternative fuel, including:

3 1. Risks involved in the storage of converted sewage sludge;

4 2. Effect on air quality if converted sewage sludge is
5 incinerated; and

6 3. Effect on land use, such as area needed for landfills;

7 (iii) Evaluating the effect on the economic sector for statewide and
8 local industry, including potential for new markets, employment, and economic
9 development; and

10 (iv) Identifying and recommending best practices to implement a
11 sewage sludge conversion program and best methods of communicating information
12 about the program to the public; and

13 (2) (i) On or before July 1, 2007, submit a preliminary report of its
14 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of
15 the State Government Article, to:

16 1. The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
17 Committee;

18 2. The Senate Finance Committee;

19 3. The House Economic Matters Committee; and

20 4. The House Environmental Matters Committee; and

21 (ii) On or before December 1, 2007, submit a final report of its
22 findings and recommendations to the Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of
23 the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

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