
By: **Delegates Walkup and Mayer**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 29, 2006

Rules suspended

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Noise and Safety Issues from Powerboats and Personal**
3 **Watercraft**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Noise and Safety Issues from
5 Powerboats and Personal Watercraft; establishing the membership and staffing
6 of the Task Force; providing for the designation of the chair of the Task Force;
7 authorizing the Task Force to establish certain subcommittees; requiring the
8 Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding certain issues;
9 requiring the Task Force to submit a preliminary and final report to the
10 Governor and General Assembly and its committees by a certain date;
11 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
12 but authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive certain reimbursements;
13 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task
14 Force on Noise and Safety Issues from Powerboats and Personal Watercraft.

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

17 (a) There is a Task Force on Noise and Safety Issues from Powerboats and
18 Personal Watercraft.

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

20 (1) Two members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of
21 the House;

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

23 (3) The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee; and

24 (4) The following members, appointed by the Governor:

25 (i) One representative from the Maryland Natural Resources

26 Police;

- 1 (ii) One representative from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay;
- 2 (iii) One representative from the Chesapeake Bay Power Boat
3 Association;
- 4 (iv) One representative from the Chesapeake Paddlers Association;
- 5 (v) One representative from the Maryland Watermen's Association;
- 6 (vi) One representative from an outdoor school or camp that is
7 located on the Chesapeake Bay; and
- 8 (vii) Two representatives from community organizations that
9 represent residential communities on the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries,
10 preferably one from the Upper Bay region and one from the Lower Bay region.

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

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

14 (e) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff for the Task
15 Force.

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

19 (g) The Task Force shall:

20 (1) Conduct a study regarding noise levels and safety considerations
21 from the use of powerboats and personal watercraft in State waters, especially in the
22 Chesapeake Bay, that:

23 (i) Identifies areas in the Chesapeake Bay that could require
24 stricter noise limits due to community concerns over the use of powerboats and
25 personal watercraft, and evaluates the effectiveness of current noise restrictions in
26 State waters;

27 (ii) Evaluates usage and efficacy of safety practices, such as
28 minimum wake zones and designated swim zones, as well as identifies other potential
29 safety practices necessary for powerboats especially near community recreational
30 areas, and public and private beaches; and

31 (iii) Evaluates environmental and human health conditions that
32 occur from the use of powerboats and personal watercraft, such as water pollution
33 and noise pollution, and recommends best practices to prevent or minimize harmful
34 conditions; and

35 (2) (i) On or before December 31, 2006, submit a preliminary report of
36 its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246

1 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental
2 Affairs Committee and the House Environmental Matters Committee; and

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

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
7 effect June 1, 2006. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at
8 the end of June 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
9 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.