
By: **Senators Gladden, Britt, Conway, Currie, Exum, Hughes, Jones, Kelley,
Lawlah, and McFadden**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2006

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Minority Participation in the Environmental Community**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Minority Participation in the
4 Environmental Community; establishing the membership and staffing of the
5 Task Force; requiring the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
6 to designate the chair of the Task Force; authorizing the Task Force to establish
7 certain subcommittees; requiring the University System of Maryland to provide
8 student internships to assist in staffing the Task Force; requiring the Task
9 Force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding certain issues;
10 requiring the Task Force to submit a report to the Governor and General
11 Assembly regarding its recommendations by a certain date; prohibiting a
12 member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing
13 a member of the Task Force to receive certain reimbursements; providing for the
14 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Minority
15 Participation in the Environmental Community.

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

18 (a) There is a Task Force on Minority Participation in the Environmental
19 Community.

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

21 (1) Three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
22 President of the Senate;

23 (2) Three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
24 of the House;

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

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

1 (5) The Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the
2 Chancellor's designee, preferably from an historically black university;

3 (6) The President of Morgan State University, or the President's
4 designee;

5 (7) The President of Sojourner-Douglass College, or the President's
6 designee;

7 (8) One representative from the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation;

8 (9) One representative from the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland
9 African American History and Culture; and

10 (10) The following members, appointed by the Governor:

11 (i) One representative from Maryland's Tributary Strategy
12 Program;

13 (ii) One representative from Maryland's Commission on
14 Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities;

15 (iii) One representative from a local government's zoning and
16 planning team;

17 (iv) One representative from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay,
18 or a nonprofit organization with a similar mission and role of nonpartisanship;

19 (v) One representative from the African American Land Trust;

20 (vi) One representative from the Maryland Land Trusts, or one of
21 Maryland's local land trusts;

22 (vii) One representative from the University of Maryland
23 Biotechnology Institute; and

24 (viii) One representative from the Chesapeake Ecology Center.

25 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates
26 shall jointly designate the chair of the Task Force.

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

29 (e) (1) The University System of Maryland and the Department of Natural
30 Resources shall provide staff for the Task Force.

31 (2) The University System of Maryland and the Task Force shall provide
32 opportunities for internships for students to staff the Task Force in exchange for class
33 credit, to the extent practicable.

1 (3) The staff of the Department of Natural Resources shall manage the
2 student intern.

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

6 (g) The Task Force shall:

7 (1) Evaluate and make recommendations regarding methods of
8 improving minority participation in the environmental community, including:

9 (i) Establishing environmental centers at historically black
10 colleges and universities, such as Morgan State University, Bowie State University,
11 Coppin State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Sojourner
12 Douglass College, for disseminating information about careers in the environmental
13 arena, implementing environmental education and restoration projects for faculty
14 research, providing opportunities for students to participate in the environmental
15 arena, such as student internships with governmental or nonprofit organizations, and
16 encouraging student participation in community development;

17 (ii) Improving communication to minority communities and
18 encouraging community participation on water quality and environmental health
19 issues and other environmental justice issues affecting their communities; and

20 (iii) Improving the flow of information and services into minority
21 communities regarding land conservation in general and protecting natural
22 resources, open space, and land via conservation easements; and

23 (2) Submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the
24 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
25 General Assembly on or before July 1, 2007.

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