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

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Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2006

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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;

- 1 (2) Three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
2 of the House;
- 3 (3) The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;
- 4 (4) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's  
5 designee;
- 6 (5) The Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the  
7 Chancellor's designee, preferably from an historically black university;
- 8 (6) The President of Morgan State University, or the President's  
9 designee;
- 10 (7) The President of Sojourner-Douglass College, or the President's  
11 designee;
- 12 (8) The President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, or the  
13 President's designee;
- 14 ~~(8)~~ (9) One representative from the Blacks of the Chesapeake  
15 Foundation;
- 16 ~~(9)~~ (10) One representative from the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of  
17 Maryland African American History and Culture; and
- 18 ~~(10)~~ (11) The following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 19 (i) One representative from Maryland's Tributary Strategy  
20 Program;
- 21 (ii) One representative from Maryland's Commission on  
22 Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities;
- 23 (iii) One representative from a local government's zoning and  
24 planning team;
- 25 (iv) One representative from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay,  
26 or a nonprofit organization with a similar mission and role of nonpartisanship;
- 27 (v) One representative from the African American Land Trust;
- 28 (vi) One representative from the Maryland Land Trusts, or one of  
29 Maryland's local land trusts;
- 30 (vii) One representative from the University of Maryland  
31 Biotechnology Institute; and
- 32 (viii) One representative from the Chesapeake Ecology Center.

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

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

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

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

10 (3) The staff of the Department of Natural Resources shall manage the  
11 student intern.

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

15 (g) The Task Force shall:

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

18 (i) Establishing environmental centers at historically black  
19 colleges and universities, such as Morgan State University, Bowie State University,  
20 Coppin State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Sojourner  
21 Douglass College, for disseminating information about careers in the environmental  
22 arena, implementing environmental education and restoration projects for faculty  
23 research, providing opportunities for students to participate in the environmental  
24 arena, such as student internships with governmental or nonprofit organizations, and  
25 encouraging student participation in community development;

26 (ii) Improving communication to minority communities and  
27 encouraging community participation on water quality and environmental health  
28 issues and other environmental justice issues affecting their communities; and

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

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

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

