

CHAPTER 523

(Senate Bill 165)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study the Boating Industry in Maryland

FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Boating Industry in Maryland; establishing the membership and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to designate the chair of the Task Force; authorizing the Task Force to establish certain subcommittees; requiring the Task Force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding certain issues; requiring the Task Force to submit a preliminary report and a final report to the Governor and General Assembly and its committees regarding its recommendations by a certain date; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive certain reimbursements; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Boating Industry in Maryland.

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

- (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Boating ~~and~~ Industry in Maryland.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:
 - (1) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
 - (2) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
 - (3) The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (4) The Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (5) The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee; and

~~(5)~~ (6) The following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) Two representatives from the Marine Trade Association of Maryland;

(ii) Two representatives from local tourism boards or visitor bureaus that are from counties that border the Chesapeake Bay;

(iii) One representative from a local yacht club;

(iv) One owner and operator of a marina in the State;

(v) One owner or operator of a boat dealership in the State; and

(vi) One representative from the Maryland Tourism Council.

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

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

(e) The Department of Business and Economic Development and the Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff for the Task Force.

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

(g) The Task Force shall:

(1) Evaluate and make recommendations regarding growing the boating industry within the State, including:

(i) Evaluating incentives to encourage large boats and yachts to use marinas and boatyards for recreation, repair, and outfitting within the State;

(ii) Determining ways to encourage and promote tourism throughout waters of the State;

(iii) Researching the economic impact that marine industries and recreational boaters contribute to the State's economy; and

(iv) Identifying barriers that limit the State's competitiveness with other states regarding the boating industry and developing methods to overcome these barriers; and

(2) (i) On or before November 30, 2007, submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee; and

(ii) On or before June 30, 2008, submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of July 31, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 17, 2007.