

SENATE BILL 431

M1

8lr2041

By: **Senators Pinsky, Raskin, Brochin, Conway, Dyson, Frosh, Garagiola, Madaleno, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2008

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2008

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Natural Resources Forest Conservation Act No Net Loss of Forest~~
3 Task Force to Study a No Net Loss of Forest Policy

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Department of Natural Resources, on or before a~~
5 ~~certain date, to conduct a certain assessment, develop certain draft legislation,~~
6 ~~and submit the draft legislation to the Governor and General Assembly; and~~
7 ~~generally relating to the Forest Conservation Act~~ requesting that the Governor
8 establish a Task Force to Study a No Net Loss of Forest Policy; requiring the
9 Task Force to develop a certain plan and draft legislation; requiring the Task
10 Force to submit the plan and draft legislation to the Governor and General
11 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;
12 and generally relating to the conservation of forested lands in the State.

13 ~~BY adding to~~

14 ~~Article Natural Resources~~

15 ~~Section 5-1614~~

16 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

17 ~~(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)~~

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That ~~the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

20 ~~Article Natural Resources~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 ~~5-1614.~~

2 ~~ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2008, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:~~

3 ~~(1) CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THIS~~
4 ~~SUBTITLE;~~

5 ~~(2) DEVELOP DRAFT LEGISLATION FOR THE 2009 LEGISLATIVE~~
6 ~~SESSION TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS A PROCESS TO ACHIEVE A NO NET LOSS OF~~
7 ~~FOREST IN THE STATE BEGINNING IN 2010; AND~~

8 ~~(3) SUBMIT THE DRAFT LEGISLATION DEVELOPED IN~~
9 ~~ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO THE GOVERNOR~~
10 ~~AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE~~
11 ~~GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.~~

12 (a) The Governor is requested to establish a Task Force to Study a No Net
13 Loss of Forest Policy to develop:

14 (1) a specific plan, including programs and other necessary actions, to
15 achieve and maintain a policy of no net loss of forests; and

16 (2) draft legislation for the 2009 legislative session of the General
17 Assembly to ensure that there is a process to achieve a no net loss of forest in the State
18 beginning in 2010.

19 (b) The Task Force shall consist of representatives from:

20 (1) the Department of Natural Resources;

21 (2) the Department of Agriculture;

22 (3) the Department of Planning; and

23 (4) organizations representing:

24 (i) forest landowners;

25 (ii) local governments;

26 (iii) the development community;

27 (iv) the forest products industry;

28 (v) the agricultural community;

29 (vi) the forest conservancy district boards; and

1 (vii) forest conservation.

2 (c) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff support for the
3 Task Force.

4 (d) On or before December 1, 2008, the Task Force shall submit the specific
5 plan and draft legislation developed under subsection (a) of this section to the
6 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
7 General Assembly.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 ~~July~~ June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
10 May 31, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
11 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.