

SENATE BILL 475

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By: **Senators Madaleno, Conway, Forehand, Frosh, Garagiola, King, Kramer, Lenett, McFadden, Miller, Pugh, Raskin, and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Study the Impact of Immigrants in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission to Study the Impact of Immigrants in
4 Maryland; providing for the membership and duties of the Commission;
5 requiring that certain members appointed to the Commission reflect certain
6 diversity of this State; providing for the designation of a chair of the
7 Commission; requiring the University of Maryland, College Park to provide staff
8 for the Commission; prohibiting members of the Commission from receiving
9 compensation; authorizing a member to receive certain reimbursement;
10 requiring the Commission to report its findings to the Governor and the General
11 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;
12 and generally relating to a Commission to Study the Impact of Immigrants in
13 Maryland.

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

16 (a) There is a Commission to Study the Impact of Immigrants in Maryland.

17 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

18 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
19 President of the Senate;

20 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
21 of the House;

22 (3) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the
23 Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



3 (5) the Secretary of Human Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

(6) the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary's designee; and

6 (7) seven members, appointed by the Governor.

7 (c) To the extent practicable, the members appointed to the Commission
8 shall reasonably reflect the geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of
9 the State.

10 (d) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Commission.

11 (e) The University of Maryland, College Park shall provide staff for the
12 Commission, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services, the
13 Department of Budget and Management, and the Office of the Governor.

14 (f) A member of the Commission:

15 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

16 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
17 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

18 (g) The Commission shall study:

19 (1) the demographic profile and impact of immigrants on the State,
20 including:

21 (i) the growth rate of the immigrant population in the State;

22 (ii) the national origins of the State's immigrant population;

23 (iii) the geographic areas of the State where immigrants reside;

24 (iv) the size and age distribution of the State's immigrant
25 population, including both documented and undocumented immigrants;

(v) whether the State's immigrant population is similar to the typical demographic profile of an immigrant population in the United States;

28 (vi) the impact of the State immigrant population on population
29 growth and birth rates;

(vii) the impact of the State immigrant population on the student population growth rate in the State's public schools;

(viii) the impact, growth rate, and participation rate of the State immigrant population relative to the State's workforce; and

5 (ix) the socioeconomic profile of the State's immigrant
6 population; and

(2) the economic and fiscal impact of immigrants on the State, including:

9 (i) the impact of immigrant contributions to Maryland's
10 economy and tax base;

11 (ii) the impact of consumer spending by immigrants on the
12 economies of the State, State metropolitan areas, and individual counties;

16 (iv) the direct and indirect tax contributions of immigrants to
17 the State;

18 (v) the net benefit or cost of immigrants on the State budget;

19 (vi) the importance of immigrants to the State's economic
20 output;

21 (vii) the potential for local businesses to generate more revenue
22 as a result of immigrant workforce availability and local spending by immigrants;

23 (viii) the projected economic impact of immigrants in the State as
24 it evolves in the future;

25 (ix) the constraints faced by immigrants and immigrant-owned
26 businesses in the State; and

27 (x) how business and trade with immigrants' countries of origin
28 can be expanded to benefit the State.

29 (h) The Commission shall report its findings to the Governor and, in
30 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on
31 or before January 1, 2011.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of May 31,

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1 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.