

CHAPTER 553

(House Bill 1602)

AN ACT concerning

Commission to Study the Impact of Immigrants in Maryland

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

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

- (a) There is a Commission to Study the Impact of Immigrants in Maryland.
- (b) The Commission consists of the following members:
 - (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
 - (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
 - (3) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (4) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (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~~
 - (7) the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning;

(8) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee;

(8) (9) a representative of the Maryland State Bar Association Immigration Section; and

(7) (9) (10) seven ~~five~~ eight members, appointed by the Governor, with at least:

(i) two members from the business community;

(ii) two members with expertise on immigration-related issues; and

(iii) two members with expertise on education issues.

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

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

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

(f) A member of the Commission:

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

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

(g) The Commission shall study:

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

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

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

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

(iv) the size and age distribution of the State's immigrant 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;

(vi) the impact of the State immigrant population on population 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

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

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

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

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

(iii) the major public services costs incurred by the State as a result of immigrants, including spending on K–12 public education, higher education, health services delivery, *public safety*, and corrections;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) To the extent possible, for each of the items of study included in this Act, the report of the Commission shall make the distinction between persons who are in lawful immigration status and those who are not in lawful immigration status.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of May 31, 2011, 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 13, 2008.