

HOUSE BILL 29

R2

9lr0734

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Sossi**

Requested: October 3, 2008

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2009

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Traffic Accident Clearance Procedures**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Traffic Accident Clearance
4 Procedures; providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force;
5 providing for the staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to appoint
6 the chair of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from
7 receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to
8 receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report
9 to the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of this
10 Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force to Study Traffic
11 Accident Clearance Procedures.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Traffic Accident Clearance Procedures.

15 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

16 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
17 of the Senate;

18 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

21 (4) the State Highway Administrator, or the Administrator's designee;

22 (5) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (6) the Superintendent of the Maryland State Police, or the
2 Superintendent's designee;

3 (7) the Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for Emergency
4 Medical Services Systems, or the Executive Director's designee; and

5 (8) the following individuals appointed by the Governor in
6 consultation with the Secretary of Transportation:

7 (i) a representative of the American Automobile Association in
8 the State;

9 (ii) a representative of a towing company that conducts business
10 in the State;

11 (iii) a representative of the automobile insurance industry in the
12 State;

13 (iv) a representative of a local law enforcement agency in the
14 State;

15 (v) a representative of a fire company or department in the
16 State; and

17 (vi) an individual with experience or expertise in the clean-up of
18 hazardous materials spills resulting from vehicular accidents.

19 (c) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Task Force from its
20 membership.

21 (d) The Secretary of Transportation shall provide staff support for the Task
22 Force from the Department of Transportation.

23 (e) A member of the Task Force:

24 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

27 (f) The Task Force shall:

28 (1) identify and study traffic accident clearance policies and
29 procedures followed in the State;

30 (2) identify and study traffic accident clearance policies and
31 procedures followed in other states;

1 (3) identify improvements that could be made to State policies and
2 procedures that would:

3 (i) improve response times;

4 (ii) reduce traffic delays;

5 (iii) reduce the occurrence of secondary incidents;

6 (iv) enhance the safety of responders, crash victims, and other
7 drivers; and

8 (v) improve air quality.

9 (g) On or before December 31, 2009, the Task Force shall report its findings
10 and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the
11 State Government Article.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 June 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
14 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
15 abrogated and of no further force and effect.