

# SENATE BILL 678

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By: **Senator Gladden**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Alternative Energy Generation in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Alternative Energy Generation  
4 in Maryland; establishing the membership and staffing of the Task Force;  
5 providing for the election of a chair of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of  
6 the Task Force from receiving compensation, but authorizing certain  
7 reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and  
8 make recommendations regarding certain issues; requiring the Task Force to  
9 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly  
10 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and  
11 generally relating to the Task Force to Study Alternative Energy Generation in  
12 Maryland.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Public Utility Companies

15 Section 7–213

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Public Utility Companies**

21 **7–213.**

22 (A) **THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ALTERNATIVE ENERGY**  
23 **GENERATION IN MARYLAND.**

24 (B) **THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY  
2 THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

3           (2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY  
4 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

5           (3) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ENERGY  
6 ADMINISTRATION, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

7           (4) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, OR  
8 THE CHAIRMAN'S DESIGNEE; AND

9           (5) THE FOLLOWING FOUR MEMBERS, JOINTLY APPOINTED BY  
10 THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
11 DELEGATES:

12           (I) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE RENEWABLE  
13 ENERGY INDUSTRY;

14           (II) ONE ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMIST; AND

15           (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF  
16 MARYLAND SPECIALIZING IN ALTERNATIVE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY.

17           (C) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ELECT THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE  
18 FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

19           (D) THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION AND THE PUBLIC  
20 SERVICE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE TASK FORCE.

21           (E) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE:

22           (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE  
23 TASK FORCE; BUT

24           (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE  
25 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE  
26 BUDGET.

27           (F) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

28           (1) STUDY THE OPTIONS FOR THE LARGE-SCALE GENERATION OF  
29 ELECTRICITY IN MARYLAND THAT IS FROM SOURCES THAT PRODUCE

1 **INEXPENSIVE, CLEAN, AND RELIABLE ELECTRICITY AND THAT WILL REDUCE**  
2 **MARYLAND'S DEPENDENCE ON FOSSIL FUELS; AND**

3 **(2) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SITING OF**  
4 **LARGE-SCALE RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY GENERATING**  
5 **FACILITIES IN MARYLAND.**

6 **(G) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2010, THE TASK FORCE SHALL**  
7 **REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN**  
8 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE**  
9 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 June 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of  
12 May 31, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall  
13 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.