

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 975

(Senator Dyson)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

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**Task Force to Study Erosion in Areas of Puritan Tiger Beetle Habitat**

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Study Erosion in Areas of Puritan Tiger Beetle Habitat. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must provide staff support for the task force. By December 31, 2010, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and specified committees of the General Assembly.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010, and terminates December 31, 2010.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Given the State's fiscal difficulties, agency budgets have been constrained. Thus, the requirement to staff the task force and develop the report in the short timeframe specified by the bill may not be absorbable within the existing budgeted resources of DNR without a redirection of priorities from other projects. It is assumed that any expense reimbursements can be absorbed with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The task force must:

- examine issues related to and problems arising out of the erosion of land in the State that provides puritan tiger beetle habitat;

- determine the shore erosion protective works that are available and most effective to prevent erosion;
- examine any ecological, legal, or practical barriers to the construction of any effective shore erosion protection works;
- examine the permitting processes for the construction of shore erosion protective works and identify the appropriate federal, State, and local agencies that are involved in the permitting process;
- solicit and hear testimony from the appropriate federal, State, and local permitting agencies on the legal standards and processes involved in the construction of shore erosion protective works;
- examine the habitat requirements and ecology of the puritan tiger beetle, including specified items; and
- make findings and recommendations on the most feasible and effective methods to prevent erosion, while ensuring conservation of the puritan tiger beetle.

Members of the task force may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

**Background:** The majority of the world's population of the puritan tiger beetle occurs in Maryland. Of the estimated 5,000 puritan tiger beetles in the world, approximately 3,000 to 4,000 of them are in Maryland. They are found on eroding, unvegetated cliffs along the Chesapeake Bay in Calvert County and along the Sassafras River between Kent and Cecil counties. Many of the cliffs are held in private ownership.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 18, 2010  
mpc/lgc Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 1, 2010

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