

Chapter 590

(House Bill 306)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force on Solar Hot Water Systems in Prince George's County

FOR the purpose of reestablishing the Task Force on Solar Hot Water Systems in Prince George's County; providing for the members of the Task Force; providing for the designation of a chair of the Task Force; requiring the Prince George's County government to provide staff for the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; providing that a member of the Task Force may receive reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study certain matters and make certain findings and recommendations; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Prince George's County Senators, the Prince George's County Delegation, the Prince George's County Council, the Prince George's County Executive, and certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; stating a certain intent of the General Assembly concerning technical assistance provided by the Maryland Energy Administration; stating a certain intent of the General Assembly concerning the selection of Task Force members; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Solar Hot Water Systems in Prince George's County.

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

(a) There is a Task Force on Solar Hot Water Systems in Prince George's County to develop a business plan to achieve substantial use of solar hot water systems over a relatively short period of time in a way that saves money for Prince George's County residents and businesses and that reduces carbon emissions.

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

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland who represents Prince George's County, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates who represents Prince George's County, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the Director's designee;

(4) one member of the Prince George's County Council, appointed by the chair of the Council;

(5) the Prince George's County Executive, or the County Executive's designee; and

(6) one representative from the Maryland Clean Energy Center.

(c) The Task Force members shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Prince George's County government shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) The Maryland Energy Administration may provide technical assistance.

(f) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

(g) The Task Force shall:

(1) study and analyze the use of solar hot water systems in other states and countries to identify ways to support substantial use of solar hot water systems in Prince George's County;

(2) analyze current federal, state, and local incentives, and related existing and potential policy tools to support substantial use of solar hot water systems in Prince George's County;

(3) analyze policy, financial, market, and other obstacles to implementing solar hot water systems in Prince George's County and ways to overcome the obstacles;

(4) explore possibilities to use greenhouse gas markets or other market-based incentives to monetize emission reductions and thereby lower the cost of solar hot water systems;

(5) identify the best major markets for implementation of solar hot water systems, including:

(i) county buildings;

(ii) county schools;

- (iii) hotels;
- (iv) restaurants;
- (v) churches;
- (vi) commercial properties;
- (vii) multifamily residential properties; and
- (viii) single family residential properties; and

(6) develop a business plan to achieve substantial use of solar hot water systems in Prince George's County in a way that saves money for Prince George's County residents and businesses and that reduces carbon emissions.

(h) On or before December 31, 2011, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Prince George's County Senators, the Prince George's County Delegation, the Prince George's County Council, and the Prince George's County Executive, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that any technical assistance provided by the Maryland Energy Administration under Section 1 of this Act shall be provided with the Maryland Energy Administration's existing resources.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that, to the extent possible, the individuals appointed to the Task Force reestablished under this Act shall be the same individuals appointed to the Task Force on Solar Hot Water Systems in Prince George's County established under Chapter 649 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of December 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 19, 2011.