

# SENATE BILL 181

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By: **Senator Raskin**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Public Financing of Judicial Elections**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Public Financing of  
4 Judicial Elections; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task  
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain  
6 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;  
7 requiring the Task Force to study and develop a proposal regarding certain  
8 matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and proposal to the  
9 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of  
10 this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Public Financing  
11 of Judicial Elections.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Public Financing of Judicial Elections.

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

16 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
17 President of the Senate;

18 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
19 of the House;

20 (3) one judge serving on the Court of Appeals, appointed by the Chief  
21 Judge of the Court of Appeals;

22 (4) one judge serving on a circuit court, appointed by the Chief Judge  
23 of the Court of Appeals;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (5) one judge serving on the District Court, appointed by the Chief  
2 Judge of the Court of Appeals;

3           (6) the Dean of the University Maryland Francis King Carey School of  
4 Law, or the Dean's designee; and

5           (7) the following members appointed by the Governor:

6                   (i) three presidents of county bar associations;

7                   (ii) a representative from a group committed to government  
8 transparency;

9                   (iii) a member of the public who practices law in the State; and

10                   (iv) a member of the public who does not practice law in the  
11 State.

12           (c) The Governor, with the consent of the President of the Senate and the  
13 Speaker of the House, shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

14           (d) The Department of Legislative Services and the Maryland Judicial  
15 Conference shall provide staff for the Task Force.

16           (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

20           (f) The Task Force shall:

21                   (1) study the feasibility of adopting a public finance system for judicial  
22 elections in the State;

23                   (2) review best practices for publicly financing judicial elections; and

24                   (3) develop a proposal to institute a public finance system for judicial  
25 elections in the State.

26           (g) On or before December 31, 2012, the Task Force shall report its findings  
27 and proposal to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
28 Government Article.

29           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
30 July 1, 2012. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,

1 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.