

SENATE BILL 784

J1
SB 574/11 – FIN

2lr2548

By: **Senators Muse, Colburn, Kittleman, and Klausmeier**
Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012
Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Workgroup on Cancer Clusters**
3 **and Environmental Causes of Cancer**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in
5 consultation with the Department of the Environment, to convene a certain
6 workgroup to examine certain issues; requiring the workgroup to include
7 certain representatives; requiring the Department of Health and Mental
8 Hygiene to report the findings and any recommendations of the workgroup to
9 the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and
10 generally relating to cancer clusters and environmental causes of cancer.

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

13 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the
14 Department of the Environment, shall convene a workgroup to examine issues
15 relating to the investigation of potential cancer clusters in the State and potential
16 environmental causes of cancer, including:

17 (1) the process that State agencies use to research and identify cancer
18 clusters in the State;

19 (2) communication between State agencies and between State and
20 federal agencies regarding research about and the identification of cancer clusters and
21 potential environmental causes of cancer;

22 (3) research being conducted by the academic medical institutions in
23 the State on potential cancer clusters and how findings from this research are
24 communicated to the appropriate State and federal agencies; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) whether additional information regarding potential cancer clusters
2 and potential environmental causes of cancer should be provided in annual reports to
3 the public.

4 (b) (1) The workgroup required under this section shall include
5 representatives of academic medical institutions in the State, advocates for cancer
6 patients, legislators, scientists, and environmentalists.

7 (2) In selecting members of the workgroup, the Department of Health
8 and Mental Hygiene shall include representatives from both urban and rural areas of
9 the State.

10 (3) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall invite
11 representatives of federal agencies to participate in the workgroup.

12 (c) On or before December 1, 2012, the Department of Health and Mental
13 Hygiene shall report the findings of the workgroup required under this section and
14 any recommendations of the workgroup to the Governor and, in accordance with §
15 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 July 1, 2012.