

Chapter 292

(Senate Bill 586)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the Southern Maryland Region

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the Southern Maryland Region; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the Southern Maryland Region.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the Southern Maryland Region, including Charles County, Calvert County, and St. Mary's County, to provide the low-income, working poor, and unemployed populations of that region with fresh farm products.

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

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;

(4) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee; and

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

(i) a representative of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission;

(ii) a representative of the Southern Maryland Ministers Alliance; and

(iii) a representative of Farming 4 Hunger.

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

(d) The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force.

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) assess the *nutritional* needs of the low-income, working poor, and unemployed populations of the Southern Maryland region;

(2) study the infrastructure and equipment required to best serve those needs;

(3) make recommendations regarding the locations of collection and distribution sites throughout the region;

(4) make recommendations regarding the operation and management of a hub and spoke program, including human resources, the collaboration among members of the agricultural community and anti-hunger organizations, and processes for collecting and distributing locally-grown farm food;

(5) make recommendations regarding education and outreach efforts throughout the region regarding the hub and spoke program; and

(6) study and make recommendations regarding options for granting State and local tax incentives to individuals who donate locally-grown farm food to the hub and spoke program and how to verify the activities of those individuals.

(g) On or before December 1, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2014, 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 2, 2013.