

# HOUSE BILL 1326

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By: **Delegates Mizeur, Elliott, Hogan, Smigiel, and Sophocleus**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2013

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Improve the Business Climate in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Improve the Business Climate in  
4 Maryland; providing for the membership, chair, and staffing of the Task Force;  
5 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation, but  
6 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to  
7 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the  
8 Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and 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 Improve the Business  
11 Climate in Maryland.

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

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Improve the Business Climate in Maryland.

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

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

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

20 (3) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the  
21 Secretary's designee;

22 (4) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the  
23 Secretary's designee;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (5) the Comptroller of the Treasury, or the Comptroller's designee;
- 2 (6) the Director of Assessments and Taxation, or the Director's  
3 designee;
- 4 (7) one representative of the Greater Baltimore Committee;
- 5 (8) one representative of the Maryland Banker's Association;
- 6 (9) one representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;
- 7 (10) one representative of the Maryland Independent College and  
8 University Association;
- 9 (11) one representative of the Maryland Technology Development  
10 Corporation; and
- 11 (12) one representative of the minority business community.

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

13 (d) The Department of Business and Economic Development shall provide  
14 staff for the Task Force.

15 (e) A member of the Task Force:

16 (1) may not receive compensation for serving as a member of the Task  
17 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) review and examine State laws and policies affecting the  
22 sustainability and growth of businesses in the State, including:

23 (i) the resources available to new businesses formed in the  
24 State;

25 (ii) the business tax structure; and

26 (iii) the length of time required to obtain permits and licenses  
27 needed to operate a business;

28 (2) identify laws and policies affecting businesses that should be  
29 altered to:

1 (i) make the State a more competitive business environment;

2 and

3 (ii) eliminate unnecessary administrative burdens; and

4 (3) make recommendations regarding whether existing laws and  
5 policies relating to businesses could better serve the business community and the  
6 public.

7 (e) On or before December 31, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings  
8 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Governor and, in  
9 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the  
12 end of June 30, 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
13 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.