

SENATE BILL 240

P5, G1

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CF 3lr0409

By: **Senators Kelley, Currie, Garagiola, Jacobs, Kittleman, Manno, Montgomery, Muse, Reilly, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2013

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Redistricting in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Redistricting in Maryland;
4 specifying the composition, powers, and duties of the Task Force; providing for
5 the staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report its findings
6 and recommendations, including suggested constitutional and legislative
7 changes, to the Governor and to the General Assembly by a certain date;
8 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task
9 Force to Study Redistricting in Maryland.

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

12 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Redistricting in Maryland.

13 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following 16 members:

14 (1) 2 members of the Senate of Maryland, 1 of whom shall be a
15 member of the minority party of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;

16 (2) 2 members of the House of Delegates, 1 of whom shall be a member
17 of the minority party of the House, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

18 (3) 12 individuals appointed by the Governor to reflect the ethnic,
19 racial, gender, and geographic diversity of the State, including:

20 (i) A representative of the League of Women Voters of
21 Maryland;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) A representative of the Maryland Democratic Party State
2 Central Committee;

3 (iii) A representative of the Maryland Republican Party State
4 Central Committee;

5 (iv) A representative of the National Association for the
6 Advancement of Colored People;

7 (v) A representative of the American Civil Liberties Union;

8 (vi) 3 representatives of nonprofit civil rights organizations as
9 follows:

10 1. 1 of whom represents Asian/Pacific Islanders;

11 2. 1 of whom represents Blacks/African Americans; and

12 3. 1 of whom represents Hispanics;

13 (vii) A representative of the Maryland Institute for Policy
14 Analysis and Research at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County;

15 (viii) A representative of the State Board of Elections; and

16 (ix) 2 other individuals, chosen from among individuals and
17 organizations with a demonstrated record of strong civic and community involvement
18 and participation in the electoral process.

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

20 (d) The Department of Planning, the State Board of Elections, and the
21 Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

22 (e) The Task Force shall:

23 (1) Examine the current redistricting process in Maryland as it relates
24 to the redistricting of the General Assembly, including the use of single-member
25 districts, and the redistricting of the State's representatives to the United States
26 Congress following each decennial census;

27 (2) Collect and analyze information relating to the manner and
28 methods utilized for state legislative and United States congressional redistricting in
29 other states around the country following each decennial census;

1 (3) As it considers appropriate, receive testimony from and consult
2 with individuals who are knowledgeable about State and federal constitutional and
3 statutory requirements and other matters related to the redistricting process; and

4 (4) Suggest any constitutional or statutory changes that it concludes
5 are desirable in order to improve the redistricting process in Maryland to ensure that,
6 to the greatest extent practicable, General Assembly and congressional districts are
7 compact, contiguous, and respectful of the State's natural boundaries and promote full
8 and vigorous participation in the political process by the citizens of the State.

9 (f) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall report its findings
10 and recommendations, including any proposed changes to the Maryland Constitution
11 or any statutory changes to the Maryland election law, to the Governor and, subject to
12 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly for consideration by
13 the General Assembly in the 2015 Session.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 July 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,
16 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
17 abrogated and of no further force and effect.