

SENATE BILL 713

P5
HB 1250/04 – HRU

3lr1738

By: **Senators Madaleno, Raskin, Currie, Ferguson, Garagiola, Kittleman,
Manno, and Ramirez**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2013

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Democracy and Representative Government in Maryland for**
3 **the 21st Century**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Democracy and Representative
5 Government in Maryland for the 21st Century; requiring the Task Force to
6 study and evaluate the General Assembly's structure, organization, and process;
7 requiring the Task Force to make recommendations on changes to the State's
8 legislative structure, organization, and process that would achieve certain goals;
9 providing for the membership of the Task Force; providing staff for the Task
10 Force; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to
11 the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the
12 termination of the Task Force; and generally relating to the Task Force on
13 Democracy and Representative Government in Maryland for the 21st Century.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force on Democracy and Representative Government in
17 Maryland for the 21st Century.

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

19 (1) five members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
20 President of the Senate; and

21 (2) five members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
22 of the House of Delegates; and

23 (3) five members of the public, appointed by the Governor;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates
2 jointly shall call the first meeting of the Task Force.

3 (d) The Task Force shall elect its chair who shall call all future meetings of
4 the Task Force.

5 (e) The Department of Legislative Services, the School of Public Policy of the
6 University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and the School of Public Policy of the
7 University of Maryland, College Park, shall provide staff for the Task Force.

8 (f) A member of the Task Force:

9 (1) may not receive compensation; but

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

12 (g) The Task Force shall study and evaluate the General Assembly's
13 structure, organization, and process and make recommendations for:

14 (1) changes to the redistricting process that provide for more efficient
15 and less political drawing of boundaries for State legislative districts and
16 congressional districts;

17 (2) changes to the legislative structure and process that enhance the
18 ability of the General Assembly to address the State's problems promptly and
19 decisively; and

20 (3) changes that would improve the public's perception of the General
21 Assembly as an important and accountable equal branch of State government with the
22 Executive Branch.

23 (h) The Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and
24 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
25 Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2014.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and, at
28 the end of December 31, 2014, with no further action required by the General
29 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.