

Chapter 249

(House Bill 1343)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) (1) The workgroup required under this section shall include:

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

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

(iii) representatives of academic medical institutions in the State, advocates for cancer patients, ~~legislators,~~ scientists, and environmentalists; and

(iv) at least one representative of a manufacturing business in the State.

(2) In selecting members of the workgroup described in paragraph (1)(iii) and (iv) of this subsection, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall include representatives from both urban and rural areas of the State.

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

(c) On or before June 30, 2014, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall report the findings of the workgroup required under this section and any recommendations of the workgroup to the Governor 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 July 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2013.