

# HOUSE BILL 554

Q7  
HB 1302/13 – W&M

4r1362  
CF SB 625

By: **Delegates Dumais, Serafini, Barkley, Beitzel, Carr, Cullison, Fraser-Hidalgo, Frick, Gutierrez, Hixson, Kaiser, A. Kelly, Kramer, Luedtke, McComas, A. Miller, Myers, O'Donnell, Reznik, S. Robinson, Simmons, F. Turner, Valentino-Smith, Waldstreicher, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness;  
4 specifying the membership of the Commission; providing for the appointment of  
5 a Senate cochair and House cochair of the Commission; providing for the  
6 staffing of the Commission; prohibiting a member of the Commission from  
7 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain  
8 expenses; requiring the Commission to study, consider, and make  
9 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Commission to  
10 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General  
11 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;  
12 and generally relating to the Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness.

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

15 (a) There is a Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness.

16 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

17 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
18 President of the Senate;

19 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker  
20 of the House;

21 (3) the Comptroller of the Treasury, or the Comptroller's designee;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's  
2 designee;

3 (5) a representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

4 (6) a representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;

5 (7) one economist, appointed by the Governor;

6 (8) one member of the faculty of the University of Maryland School of  
7 Public Policy, appointed by the Governor;

8 (9) one member of the faculty of the University of Maryland Robert H.  
9 Smith School of Business, appointed by the Governor; and

10 (10) two members of the public, each of whom shall be an attorney at  
11 law or an accountant knowledgeable about the State's tax structure, appointed by the  
12 Governor.

13 (c) (1) The President of the Senate shall designate one of the members  
14 appointed from the Senate of Maryland as cochair of the Commission.

15 (2) The Speaker of the House shall designate one of the members  
16 appointed from the House of Delegates as cochair of the Commission.

17 (d) The Office of the Comptroller and the Department of Budget and  
18 Management shall provide staff for the Commission.

19 (e) A member of the Commission:

20 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

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

23 (f) The Commission shall:

24 (1) study the current revenue structure of the State, including income,  
25 sales, corporate, motor fuel, excise, and property taxes, tax exemptions and credits,  
26 and fees;

27 (2) review the academic and economic research on state and local tax  
28 policy to assist in the overall assessment of efficacy, fairness, and competitiveness of  
29 the current revenue structure of the State;

30 (3) review the revenue structure of neighboring jurisdictions for the  
31 purpose of evaluating the regional competitiveness of the State's tax structure;

1           (4)    consider the nature of the State's economy and the importance of  
2 service and professional businesses to economic development;

3           (5)    consider whether or not the current revenue structure of the State  
4 should be reformed, modified, and modernized; and

5           (6)    make recommendations regarding changes to the State's revenue  
6 structure that:

7                   (i)    promote job growth and economic development;

8                   (ii)   ensure fairness, simplicity, and transparency;

9                   (iii)   provide a stable, balanced, and reliable revenue stream,  
10 while not reducing services; and

11                   (iv)   create a business friendly environment.

12           (g)    On or before December 1, 2015, the Commission shall report its findings  
13 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
14 Government Article, the General Assembly.

15           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June  
17 30, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
18 abrogated and of no further force and effect.