

# HOUSE BILL 1217

P5, G1  
HB 1269/13 – HRU

4lr1387

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By: **Delegates Braveboy, Carr, Gutierrez, and A. Kelly**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## 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;

22 (ii) A representative of the Maryland Democratic Party State  
23 Central Committee;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (iii) A representative of the Maryland Republican Party State  
2 Central Committee;

3 (iv) A representative of the National Association for the  
4 Advancement of Colored People;

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

6 (vi) 3 representatives of nonprofit civil rights organizations as  
7 follows:

8 1. 1 of whom represents Asian/Pacific Islanders;

9 2. 1 of whom represents Blacks/African Americans; and

10 3. 1 of whom represents Hispanics;

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

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

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

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

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

20 (e) The Task Force shall:

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

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

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

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

6           (f)     On or before December 31, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings  
7 and recommendations, including any proposed changes to the Maryland Constitution  
8 or any statutory changes to the Maryland election law, to the Governor and, subject to  
9 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly for consideration by  
10 the General Assembly in the 2016 Session.

11           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,  
13 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
14 abrogated and of no further force and effect.