

SENATE BILL 153

C4

EMERGENCY BILL

4lr1139
CF HB 130

By: Senators Middleton, Kittleman, ~~and Pugh~~ Pugh, Brinkley, Feldman, Glassman, Kelley, Klausmeier, Mathias, and Ramirez

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2014

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: January 27, 2014

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicle Insurance – Task Force to Study Methods to Reduce the Rate**
3 **of Uninsured Drivers**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Methods to Reduce the Rate
5 of Uninsured Drivers; providing for the composition, cochairs, and staffing of
6 the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
7 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
8 requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain
9 matters; requiring the Task Force to report its preliminary and final findings
10 and recommendations to certain committees of the General Assembly on or
11 before certain dates; making this Act an emergency measure; providing for the
12 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study
13 Methods to Reduce the Rate of Uninsured Drivers.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Methods to Reduce the Rate of Uninsured
17 Drivers.

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



- 1 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
2 of the House;
- 3 (3) the Maryland Insurance Commissioner, or the Commissioner's
4 designee;
- 5 (4) the Motor Vehicle Administrator, or the Administrator's designee;
- 6 (5) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;
- 7 (6) the Executive Director of the Maryland Automobile Insurance
8 Fund, or the Executive Director's designee;
- 9 (7) the Executive Director of the Job Opportunities Task Force, or the
10 Executive Director's designee; and
- 11 (8) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 12 (i) three representatives of ~~the~~ companies that write private
13 passenger motor vehicle insurance ~~industry~~;
- 14 (ii) a representative of a consumer advocacy organization;
- 15 (iii) two representatives of motor vehicle insurance producers;
16 ~~and~~
- 17 (iv) a member of a nonprofit national motor club member
18 organization; and
- 19 (v) one member of the Bar of the Court of Appeals of Maryland
20 who represents plaintiffs in private passenger motor vehicle insurance cases.
- 21 (c) (1) The President of the Senate shall designate the Senate cochair of
22 the Task Force.
- 23 (2) The Speaker of the House of Delegates shall designate the House
24 cochair of the Task Force.
- 25 (d) (1) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the
26 Task Force.
- 27 (2) The Motor Vehicle Administration and the Maryland Insurance
28 Administration shall provide staff assistance.
- 29 (e) A member of the Task Force:

1 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

4 (f) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding:

5 (1) (i) the rate of uninsured drivers in the State and other states
6 and the ways in which the rate is calculated by the Motor Vehicle Administration and
7 other entities; and

8 (ii) the impact on calculating the rate of uninsured drivers in
9 the State of insurers reinstating the insurance coverage of a driver, from the inception
10 of the policy term, after the driver pays any delinquent insurance premiums and
11 applicable fines, although the Motor Vehicle Administration considers the driver to be
12 uninsured during the period of lapsed coverage;

13 (2) the deterrents and incentives that are used in the State and in
14 other states, or that could be used in the State, to reduce the rate of uninsured drivers,
15 including:

16 (i) the imposition of, or an increase in, fines and penalties on
17 uninsured drivers and how money from the fines and penalties collected is used, or
18 could be used, to reduce the rate of uninsured drivers;

19 (ii) a requirement that a minimum fine or penalty, and
20 reimbursement to the State for towing expenses, not be waived;

21 (iii) the implementation of an insurance verification system that
22 verifies the purchase of insurance on a motor vehicle at the time the motor vehicle is
23 registered with the Motor Vehicle Administration;

24 (iv) a requirement that a driver carry a card that shows evidence
25 of insurance on the motor vehicle the driver is driving;

26 (v) the implementation of a police insurance verification system
27 that links a license plate database to motor vehicle insurers databases;

28 (vi) the education of drivers, at the time of initial drivers'
29 licensure, about the legal requirement to purchase insurance; and

30 (vii) making the act of knowingly presenting a false or otherwise
31 invalid evidence of insurance an offense under the Maryland Vehicle Law;

32 (3) methods to reduce lower the cost of insurance, as a way to reduce
33 the rate of uninsured drivers and promote economic and job opportunities associated
34 with vehicle ownership, including:

1 (i) the implementation of an insurance plan with lower
2 required coverages for specified low-income individuals;

3 (ii) the expansion of the personal injury protection waiver; ~~and~~

4 (iii) the implementation of a pay-as-you-drive insurance plan;
5 and

6 (iv) the use of safe driving and other discounts that private
7 passenger motor vehicle insurers may offer to their policyholders; and

8 (4) any other relevant issue identified by the Task Force.

9 (g) (1) On or before December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall report its
10 preliminary findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
11 Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee, in
12 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

13 (2) On or before December 31, 2015, the Task Force shall report its
14 final findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Senate
15 Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee, in accordance with §
16 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

17 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
18 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
19 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
20 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
21 the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through December 31, 2015, and, at the
22 end of December 31, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
23 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.