

Chapter 383

(House Bill 118)

AN ACT concerning

~~Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Progress Report Ocean Acidification~~

Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean Acidification on State Waters

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Department of the Environment to include an analysis of the best available science regarding ocean acidification and certain potential effects of acidification in a certain report; requiring the Department to make recommendations on potential strategies to mitigate certain effects of ocean acidification in a certain report; and generally relating to ocean acidification~~ establishing the Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean Acidification on State Waters; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to analyze certain information and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean Acidification on State Waters.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article Environment~~

~~Section 2-1200~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2013 Replacement Volume)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, ~~That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

~~Article Environment~~

~~2-1200.~~

~~(a) On or before October 1, 2015, the Department shall submit a report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly that includes:~~

~~(1) A summary of the State's progress toward achieving the 2020 emissions reduction required by the plan under § 2-1205 of this subtitle;~~

~~(2) An update on emerging technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;~~

~~(3) A review of the best available science, including updates by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, regarding the level and pace of greenhouse gas emissions reductions and sequestration needed to avoid dangerous anthropogenic changes to the Earth's climate system;~~

~~(4) Recommendations on the need for science-based adjustments to the requirement to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020;~~

~~(5) A summary of additional or revised regulations, control programs, or incentives that are necessary to achieve the 25% reduction in statewide greenhouse gas emissions required under this subtitle, or a revised reduction recommended in accordance with item (4) of this subsection;~~

~~(6) The status of any federal program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and any transition by the State from its participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to a comparable federal cap and trade program; [and]~~

~~(7) An analysis of the overall economic costs and benefits to the State's economy, environment, and public health of a continuation or modification of the requirement to achieve a reduction of 25% in statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, including reductions in other air pollutants, diversification of energy sources, the impact on existing jobs, the creation of new jobs, and expansion of the State's low carbon economy;~~

~~(8) AN ANALYSIS OF THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE REGARDING OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF ACIDIFICATION ON THE ECOLOGY OF STATE WATERS AND ON STATE FISHERIES; AND~~

~~(9) RECOMMENDATIONS ON POTENTIAL STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF ACIDIFICATION ON STATE WATERS AND ON STATE FISHERIES.~~

~~(b) The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to a public comment and hearing process conducted by the Department. That:~~

~~(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Impact of Ocean Acidification on State Waters.~~

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

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

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

~~(1)~~ (3) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

~~(2)~~ (4) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee; and

~~(3)~~ (5) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the State's aquaculture industry;

(ii) one representative of the Maryland Watermen's Association;

(iii) one representative of the National Aquarium, Baltimore;

(iv) one representative of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science; and

(v) one representative of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

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

(d) The Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) analyze the best available science regarding ocean acidification and the potential effects of acidification on the ecology of State waters and on State fisheries; and

(2) make recommendations regarding potential strategies to mitigate the effects of acidification on State waters and on State fisheries.

(g) On or before January 1, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations 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 ~~October 1, 2014~~ July 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 5, 2014.