

Chapter 139

(House Bill 941)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study Exemptions from Higher Education Ethics Requirements and Procurement Rules to Facilitate Technology Transfer

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Exemptions from Higher Education Ethics Requirements and Procurement Rules to Facilitate Technology Transfer; 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 review, study, 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 Exemptions from Higher Education Ethics Requirements and Procurement Rules to Facilitate Technology Transfer.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Exemptions from Higher Education Ethics Requirements and Procurement Rules to Facilitate Technology Transfer.

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

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

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

(3) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the Secretary's designee;

(4) the Executive Director of the Maryland Technology Development Corporation, or the Executive Director's designee;

(5) four representatives, appointed by the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, with experience and expertise in:

(i) technology transfer and commercialization;

(ii) ethics and intellectual property and licensing;

- (iii) economic development; and
- (iv) State and university procurement practices;
- (6) the President of Morgan State University, or the President's designee;
- (7) the President of St. Mary's College of Maryland, or the President's designee; ~~and~~
- (8) one representative of a technology incubator that is affiliated with a university and located in the State; *and*
- (9) *the Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission, or the Executive Director's designee.*

(c) The Task Force shall elect a chair from among its members.

(d) The University System of Maryland 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) review the effect of existing State ethics requirements and procurement rules on technology transfer at universities, including:

(i) the participation of faculty in economic development activities;

(ii) the purchase of research equipment and supplies; and

(iii) the hiring of research personnel;

(2) study options for creating exemptions from, or other modifications of, State ethics requirements and procurement rules to:

(i) meet the complex needs of universities;

(ii) maintain the necessary protections provided by ethics requirements and procurement rules; and

(iii) facilitate technology transfer at universities; ~~and~~

(3) review and recommend possible procurement and operational exemptions for all University of Maryland University College operations, including extending existing exemptions for the University of Maryland University College's overseas programs to all University operations; and

(4) make recommendations regarding the relaxation of ethics requirements and procurement rules to facilitate technology transfer at universities in the State.

(g) On or before December 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 June 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2016, 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 12, 2015.