

# SENATE BILL 126

R7  
SB 778/15 – JPR

6lr1126  
CF HB 8

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By: **Senator Serafini**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2016

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

### **Task Force to Study Issues Related to the Use of Self-Driving Vehicles**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Issues Related to the Use of Self-Driving Vehicles; 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 make certain determinations, review certain information, consider certain issues, and make certain recommendations related to the use of self-driving vehicles; 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 Issues Related to the Use of Self-Driving Vehicles.

BY adding to

Article – Transportation

Section 2-404

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

### **Article – Transportation**

**2-404.**

**(A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ISSUES RELATED TO THE USE OF SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES.**

**(B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(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;

(3) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MARYLAND, OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DESIGNEE;

(4) THE FOLLOWING THREE MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION:

(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION;

(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION; AND

(III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY;

(5) THE SECRETARY OF STATE POLICE, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE; AND

(6) THE FOLLOWING FIVE MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE INDUSTRY;

(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AAA MID-ATLANTIC;

(III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION;

(IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ALLIANCE OF AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS; AND

(V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GLOBAL AUTOMAKERS.

(C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE.

**(D) THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 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) DETERMINE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE BEST PRACTICES FOR GOVERNING SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES BASED ON A REVIEW OF:**

**(I) THE LAWS OF OTHER STATES GOVERNING SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES;**

**(II) ANY RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, OR GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; AND**

**(III) ANY OTHER SOURCE OF RESEARCH OR ANALYSIS ADDRESSING THE GOVERNANCE OF SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES;**

**(2) REVIEW STATE LAW GOVERNING THE RULES OF THE ROAD, INCLUDING LAWS GOVERNING SPEED RESTRICTIONS, DISTRACTED DRIVING, AND DRUNK DRIVING, TO DETERMINE IF THAT AREA OF STATE LAW WOULD NEED TO BE UPDATED TO ACCOMMODATE SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES; AND**

**(3) CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON:**

**(I) ISSUES RELATED TO ANY TRAINING THAT WOULD BE NEEDED FOR DRIVERS IF SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES ARE AUTHORIZED FOR USE ON STATE HIGHWAYS, INCLUDING ISSUES RELATED TO DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR NEW DRIVERS;**

**(II) ISSUES RELATED TO LIABILITY IN THE EVENT THAT A SELF-DRIVING VEHICLE IS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT RESULTING IN INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE; AND**

**(III) ANY OTHER ISSUE THAT THE TASK FORCE DETERMINES TO BE RELEVANT IF SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES ARE AUTHORIZED FOR USE ON STATE HIGHWAYS.**

**(G) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2018, 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, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2018, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.