

HOUSE BILL 1327

A1, P1

7lr2956

By: **Delegates Lisanti, Barkley, Frick, and C. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2017

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Local Alcoholic Beverages Regulation**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Local Alcoholic Beverages Regulation to
4 study certain matters relating to boards of license commissioners and local alcoholic
5 beverages regulation; providing for the purposes of the Task Force and the study;
6 providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a
7 member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
8 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make
9 recommendations on certain matters; requiring certain State and local units to
10 cooperate with the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to submit an interim report
11 and a final report on or before certain dates to the Governor and certain committees;
12 and generally relating to the Task Force on Local Alcoholic Beverages Regulation.

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

15 (a) There is a Task Force on Local Alcoholic Beverages Regulation.

16 (b) The purpose of the Task Force is to conduct a study of the boards of license
17 commissioners in the State.

18 (c) The purpose of the study is to:

19 (1) examine the governance, structure, appointment process, operations,
20 and oversight of the local boards of license commissioners;

21 (2) compare the features of the various models of local boards in the State
22 with comparable or alternative models of local alcoholic beverages regulatory bodies in
23 nearby states; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) consider best practices and the potential to strengthen the oversight of
2 local alcohol regulation and enforcement in the State.

3 (d) The Task Force consists of:

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

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

8 (3) the following members appointed by the Governor:

9 (i) two local elected officials, one from a county and one from a
10 municipal corporation;

11 (ii) two members of boards of license commissioners;

12 (iii) two administrators of boards of license commissioners;

13 (iv) five representatives of the alcoholic beverages industry,
14 including manufacturers, distributors, and retailers; and

15 (v) two consumer members.

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

17 (f) A member of the Task Force:

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

19 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses in accordance with the
20 Standard State Travel Regulations in the State budget.

21 (g) In conducting the study, the Task Force shall:

22 (1) examine the current structures of boards of license commissioners, the
23 processes of their appointments, and the qualifications of members;

24 (2) examine the operations of the boards of license commissioners, the
25 staffing of alcoholic beverages regulation and enforcement under the boards, and internal
26 and external checks and balances relating to the operations of the boards;

27 (3) examine decision-making processes of the boards of license
28 commissioners, and avenues of administrative and judicial review of board actions;

1 (4) to the extent that other structures may be comparable or instructive,
2 examine the structure, operations, and oversight of local alcoholic beverages regulation and
3 enforcement in nearby states;

4 (5) develop recommendations to improve the structure, operations, and
5 oversight of local alcoholic beverages regulation and enforcement in the State; and

6 (6) report those recommendations, including proposed legislation and
7 regulatory changes, if appropriate, to implement the recommendations.

8 (h) The Comptroller shall provide staff to the Task Force.

9 (i) The various State units and boards of license commissioners shall cooperate
10 with the Task Force in the work of the study.

11 (j) The Task Force shall submit an interim report of the study on or before
12 December 31, 2017, and a final report on or before December 31, 2018, to the Governor and,
13 in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education,
14 Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Economic Matters
15 Committee.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
17 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June
18 30, 2019, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
19 abrogated and of no further force and effect.