

# SENATE BILL 823

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CF HB 659

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By: **Senator Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2017

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Tax Sales in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Tax Sales in Maryland; providing  
4 for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of  
5 the Task Force from receiving certain compensation but authorizing the  
6 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make  
7 recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its  
8 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or  
9 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating  
10 to the Task Force to Study Tax Sales in Maryland.

11 Preamble

12 WHEREAS, The Maryland tax sale system has not been overhauled in many years;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Local jurisdictions in the State are struggling with vacant and  
15 abandoned properties due to tax sales; and

16 WHEREAS, People are losing their homes for unpaid taxes; and

17 WHEREAS, It is the will of the General Assembly to examine the tax sale system to  
18 maximize resources, facilitate properties getting to productive use, and protecting  
19 residents; now, therefore,

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

22 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Tax Sales in Maryland.

23 (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                   (1)   two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
2 the Senate;
- 3                   (2)   two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
4 the House;
- 5                   (3)   the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the  
6 Secretary's designee;
- 7                   (4)   one member from Baltimore City, appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore  
8 City;
- 9                   (5)   one member from Dorchester County, appointed by the Dorchester  
10 County Manager;
- 11                   (6)   one member from Prince George's County, appointed by the Prince  
12 George's County Executive;
- 13                   (7)   one member appointed by the Maryland Association of Counties;
- 14                   (8)   one member appointed by the Maryland Municipal League;
- 15                   (9)   one member appointed by the Center for Community Progress; and
- 16                   (10) two members appointed by the Community Development Network of  
17 Maryland.
- 18           (c)   The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall designate the  
19 chair of the Task Force.
- 20           (d)   The Task Force may establish subcommittees it determines are necessary to  
21 carry out its duties.
- 22           (e)   The Department of Housing and Community Development shall provide staff  
23 for the Task Force.
- 24           (f)   A member of the Task Force:
- 25                   (1)   may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 26                   (2)   is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
27 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 28           (g)   The Task Force shall:
- 29                   (1)   evaluate and assess the impact of tax sales in Maryland;

1                   (2)    evaluate how tax sales are conducted in each county; and

2                   (3)    examine and make recommendations for reform of the tax sale process  
3 in Maryland.

4           (h)    On or before December 1, 2017, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
5 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
6 Government Article, the General Assembly.

7           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
8 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June  
9 30, 2018, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
10 abrogated and of no further force and effect.