

Chapter 594

(Senate Bill 1025)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force on ~~Reciprocity~~ of Fishing License Penalties

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on ~~Reciprocity~~ of Fishing License Penalties; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to make ~~a certain request~~ requests regarding 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 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; stating the intent of the General Assembly that the Task Force constitute a commission to study and make recommendations concerning revision and amendments to the Potomac River Compact of 1958, as described in a certain section of the Compact; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on ~~Reciprocity~~ of Fishing License Penalties.

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

That:

(a) There is a Task Force on ~~Reciprocity~~ of Fishing License Penalties.

(b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Task Force consists of:

(i) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

and

(ii) members appointed by the Governor.

(2) The Governor shall request that the Governor of Virginia appoint members to the Task Force.

(3) The Governor shall request that the Potomac River Fisheries Commission appoint at least one member to the Task Force.

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee, shall chair the Task Force.

(2) The Governor shall request that the ~~Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's~~ Commissioner of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, or the Commissioner's designee, cochair the Task Force.

(d) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(2) The Governor shall request that the Potomac River Fisheries Commission 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 study and make recommendations on:

(1) fishing license penalty reciprocity between Maryland and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission;

(2) if Virginia participates in the Task Force, fishing license penalty reciprocity between Virginia and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission; ~~and~~

(3) the logistics associated with providing fishing license penalty reciprocity; and

(4) actions the Potomac River Fisheries Commission can take, consistent with the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, to prohibit a person from participating in a fishery under the Potomac River Fisheries Commission's jurisdiction if the person's license to catch, sell, buy, process, transport, export, or otherwise deal in fish in Maryland has been suspended or revoked.

(g) On or before December 1, 2021, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Task Force established by this Act constitute a commission to study and make recommendations concerning revision and amendments to the Potomac River Compact of 1958, as described in Article IV, Section 5, of the Compact.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.