

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 678

(Senator Edwards)

Budget and Taxation

Ways and Means

Task Force on the Economic Future of Western Maryland - Extension of Report
Deadline and Task Force

This bill extends the deadline for the reporting requirement for the Task Force on the Economic Future of Western Maryland from January 1, 2021, to October 1, 2021. The bill also extends the duration of the task force by six months, until December 31, 2021. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional expense reimbursements associated with the task force are minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 207 of 2020 established the Task Force on the Economic Future of Western Maryland, staffed by the Department of Commerce. The task force must study the current economic conditions of Western Maryland and make recommendations on potential methods to improve the economies of Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties. Potential methods may include (1) opportunities to expand economic activity in technology-based industry, including biotechnology, cybersecurity, energy and energy storage, transportation and logistics, and advanced manufacturing; (2) opportunities to strengthen tourism-related businesses; and (3) strategies to overcome barriers to the

creation and expansion of new small businesses. The task force was required to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by January 1, 2021. Chapter 207 terminates June 30, 2021.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 884 (Delegate Buckel) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Department of Commerce; Garrett County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2021
rh/vlg Third Reader - March 3, 2021

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