

SENATE BILL 39

M4

2lr1066

(PRE-FILED)

By: Senator Cassilly

Requested: October 29, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Returning to State Meat Processing**
3 **Inspection**
4 **(Farms Buy Local Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Returning to
6 State Meat Processing Inspection; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study
7 the Feasibility of Returning to State Meat Processing Inspection.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Returning to State Meat
11 Processing Inspection.

12 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

13 (1) the Secretary of the Health, or the Secretary's designee;

14 (2) one representative of the Maryland Agricultural Commission;

15 (3) one representative of the Maryland Farm Bureau;

16 (4) one representative of the Consumer Protection Division of the
17 Maryland Attorney General's Office; and

18 (5) four representatives of the slaughtering and processing industry,
19 appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

20 (c) The Task Force shall elect a chair from among its members.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- (d) The Department of Agriculture 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 Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- (f) The Task Force shall:
 - (1) study the feasibility of returning to State meat processing inspection;
 - (2) make recommendations on implementing State meat processing inspection; and
 - (3) advise the Secretary of Agriculture in adopting rules and regulations relating to meat processing inspection and the establishment of production standards.
- (g) On or before December 1, 2023, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect on January 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and, at the end of December 31, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.