A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Returning to State Meat Processing Inspection

(Farms Buy Local Act)

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

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

That:

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

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

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

(2) one representative of the Maryland Agricultural Commission;

(3) one representative of the Maryland Farm Bureau;

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

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

(c) The Task Force shall elect a chair from among its members.
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1 (d) The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff for the Task Force.

2 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

4 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
5 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

6 (f) The Task Force shall:

7 (1) study the feasibility of returning to State meat processing inspection;

8 (2) make recommendations on implementing State meat processing
9 inspection; and

10 (3) advise the Secretary of Agriculture in adopting rules and regulations
11 relating to meat processing inspection and the establishment of production standards.

12 (g) On or before December 1, 2023, the Task Force shall report its findings and
13 recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
October 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.