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HOUSE BILL 886

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By: **Delegates Chisholm, Grammer, Kipke, McComas, Munoz, and Schmidt**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force - Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force; and generally
4 relating to the Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force.

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
6 That:

7 (a) There is a Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force.

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

9 (1) the members of the Bay Enhancement Working Group;

10 (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
the Senate;

11 ~~(2)~~ (3) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
12 House;

13 ~~(2)~~ ~~the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;~~

14 (4) ~~the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;~~ one member from the
Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning; and

15 (5) ~~the Executive Director of the Maryland Port Administration, or the~~
16 ~~Executive Director's designee; and~~

17 ~~(6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:~~

18 (i) ~~one member who is an expert on confined aquatic disposal~~
19 ~~programs;~~

20 (ii) ~~one representative of a sports fishing organization;~~

2

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 886

1 ~~(iii) one representative of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation;~~

2 ~~(iv) one representative of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and~~

3 ~~(v) one resident from each of the following legislative districts:~~

4 ~~1. Maryland Legislative District 6;~~

5 ~~2. Maryland Legislative District 31; and~~

6 ~~3. Maryland Legislative District 46~~ three members who represent a waterfront community, one of each located in Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Anne Arundel County that are in close proximity to dredged materials from Baltimore Harbor, appointed by the Governor.

7 (c) ~~The Governor~~ majority of the members of the Task Force shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

8 (d) The Maryland Port Administration shall provide staff for the Task Force.

9 (e) A member of the Task Force:

10 ~~(1)~~ may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force, ~~but~~

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

13 (f) (1) The Task Force shall strive for consensus among its members.

14 (2) An affirmative vote of a majority of members is needed for the Task
15 Force to act.

16 (g) ~~The~~ Using the procedures and policies governing the Dredged Material Management Program under the Maryland Port Administration, the Task Force shall:

17 (1) ~~discuss~~ study and review:

18 (i) the overall concept and available options associated with
19 confined aquatic disposal programs to meet the long-term dredged material placement needs of the State;

20 (ii) ~~the State's requirements and long term strategies for~~
21 ~~maintaining functional and thriving ports in Maryland;~~

22 ~~(iii) the capacity limitations of the State's dredged material~~
23 ~~placement sites and the State's needs going forward;~~

24 ~~(iv)~~ the potential benefits and risks associated with confined aquatic
25 disposal programs;

26 ~~(v)~~ (iii) the categories of dredged materials that should be permitted
27 within confined aquatic disposal sites;

3

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 886

1 ~~(vi)~~ (iv) any financial impacts on neighboring communities in close
2 proximity to confined aquatic disposal sites;

3 ~~(vii) any limitations to be placed on confined aquatic disposal~~
4 ~~programs with consideration given to the following factors:~~

5 ~~(v)~~ (v) the location of confined aquatic disposal sites, including
6 the selection of industrial versus residential areas and distance from shore;

7 ~~(vi)~~ (vi) the size of confined aquatic disposal sites;

8 ~~(vii)~~ (vii) noise levels associated with confined aquatic disposal;

9 ~~(viii)~~ (viii) times of day when dredged material may be added to
10 confined aquatic disposal sites;

(ix) economic impacts of confined aquatic disposal;

11 ~~(x)~~ (x) environmental impacts of confined aquatic disposal; and

12 ~~any other factors the Task Force deems necessary; and~~

13 ~~(xi)~~ (xi) an approach for community outreach for any future confined
14 aquatic disposal program; and

(xii) any other factors the Task Force deems necessary; and

15 (2) make a recommendation on ~~whether the Maryland Port Authority~~
16 ~~should pursue the development of a confined aquatic disposal program or prohibit its use~~
17 ~~in the State; and~~

18 ~~(3) if the Task Force recommends developing a confined aquatic disposal~~
19 ~~program, develop a list of best practices and legislative or other policy recommendations~~
20 ~~regarding the authorization or implementation of the program, including:~~

21 ~~(i) selecting locations for confined aquatic disposal sites;~~

22 ~~(ii) the size of confined aquatic disposal sites;~~

23 ~~(iii) specifications on allowable dredged materials;~~

24 ~~(iv) the consideration of impacts to neighboring communities,~~
25 ~~habitat, and the environment;~~

26 ~~(v) outreach programs; and~~

27 ~~(vi) any other subjects the Task Force deems necessary~~ using confined aquatic
disposal as a strategy for meeting the long-term dredged material placement needs of the State.

28 (h) On or before July 1, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a report of its findings and
29 recommendations to the Governor the Executive Committee created under § 5-1104.2 of the Environment
Article and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State

4

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 886

1 Government Article, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment,
2 the House Environment and Transportation Committee, and the General Assembly.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the end of
5 December 31, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall
6 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.