

HOUSE BILL 727

M3

71r1040

By: **Delegates Cardin, Bromwell, Morhaim, and Schuler**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2007

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Renewable Energy**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Renewable Energy; establishing the
4 membership and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to designate
5 the chair of the Task Force; authorizing the Task Force to establish certain
6 subcommittees; requiring the Task Force to evaluate and make
7 recommendations regarding certain issues; requiring the Task Force to submit a
8 preliminary and final report to the Governor and General Assembly and its
9 committees regarding the recommendations by certain dates; prohibiting a
10 member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing
11 a member of the Task Force to receive certain reimbursements; providing for
12 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on
13 Renewable Energy.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) There is a Task Force on Renewable Energy.

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

18 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the
19 Senate;

20 (2) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
21 of the House;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;
- 2 (4) The Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the
3 Secretary's designee;
- 4 (5) The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;
- 5 (6) The Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- 6 (7) The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- 7 (8) The Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the
8 Director's designee;
- 9 (9) The Director of the Maryland Environmental Service, or the
10 Director's designee; and
- 11 (10) The following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 12 (i) One representative from the Maryland Municipal League;
- 13 (ii) One representative from an environmental consulting firm;
- 14 (iii) One representative from the Renewable Natural Resources
15 Foundation;
- 16 (iv) One representative from 1000 Friends of Maryland;
- 17 (v) One representative from the University of Maryland's Civil
18 and Environmental Engineering Department;
- 19 (vi) One representative from the Center for Environmental
20 Energy Engineering in the University of Maryland's Department of Mechanical
21 Engineering;
- 22 (vii) One representative from the Maryland Association of
23 Counties;
- 24 (viii) One representative from the Maryland Farm Bureau;
- 25 (ix) One representative from the International Center for
26 Sustainable Development based in Maryland; and

1 (x) One representative from the University of Maryland's
2 Biotechnology Institute.

3 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

4 (d) The Task Force may establish subcommittees as it determines necessary
5 to fulfill its duties.

6 (e) The Maryland Energy Administration and the Department of the
7 Environment shall provide staff for the Task Force.

8 (f) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on
9 the Task Force but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
10 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

11 (g) The Task Force shall:

12 (1) Evaluate and make recommendations regarding methods of
13 facilitating the use of renewable energy within the State, including:

14 (i) Studying the best means to develop and market the use of
15 renewable energy sources, such as wind power, solar energy, biofuels, ethanol,
16 hydrogen, and sewage sludge;

17 (ii) Evaluating incentives and disincentives for increasing the
18 use of renewable energy in the State;

19 (iii) Evaluating the effect of renewable energy on the economic
20 sector for statewide and local industry, including potential for new markets,
21 employment, and economic development;

22 (iv) Identifying and recommending best practices regarding
23 renewable energy sources, including generating renewable energy in the State within
24 the Renewable Portfolio Standard;

25 (v) Identifying opportunities and potential partnerships within
26 the State for renewable energy projects; and

27 (vi) Determining best methods to communicate information to
28 the public and encourage the use of renewable energy; and

1 (2) On or before July 1, 2008, submit a preliminary report of its
2 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of
3 the State Government Article, to:

4 (i) The Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
5 Committee;

6 (ii) The Senate Finance Committee;

7 (iii) The House Economic Matters Committee; and

8 (iv) The House Environmental Matters Committee; and

9 (3) On or before December 1, 2008, submit a final report of its findings
10 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
11 Government Article, the General Assembly.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 July 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the
14 end of December 31, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
15 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.