

HOUSE BILL 1217

C5, M3

8lr0485
CF SB 499

By: **Delegates Kramer, Barkley, Beitzel, Carr, Heller, Kelly, Lee, Manno, and Montgomery**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2008

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Offshore Wind Farms**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Offshore Wind Farms;
4 establishing the membership of the Task Force; providing for the designation of
5 a chair of the Task Force; providing for staff for the Task Force; prohibiting a
6 member of the Task Force from receiving compensation, but authorizing certain
7 reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and
8 make recommendations regarding certain issues; requiring the Task Force to
9 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly
10 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and
11 generally relating to the Task Force to Study Offshore Wind Farms.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – State Government
14 Section 9–2009
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – State Government**

20 **9–2009.**

21 (A) **THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY OFFSHORE WIND FARMS.**

22 (B) **THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED
2 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

3 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED
4 BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

5 (3) THE SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, OR THE
6 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

7 (4) THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OR THE
8 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

9 (5) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ENERGY
10 ADMINISTRATION, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

11 (6) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, OR
12 THE CHAIRMAN'S DESIGNEE;

13 (7) THE SECRETARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC
14 DEVELOPMENT, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

15 (8) THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL, OR THE DESIGNEE OF THE
16 PEOPLE'S COUNSEL; AND

17 (9) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

18 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFSHORE WIND
19 INDUSTRY;

20 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE'S COASTAL
21 TOURISM INDUSTRY;

22 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL
23 COMMUNITY;

24 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COMMERCIAL
25 FISHING INDUSTRY;

26 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COMMERCIAL
27 SHIPPING INDUSTRY;

28 (VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARINE TRADES
29 ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND; AND

1 (VII) TWO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

2 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE TASK
3 FORCE.

4 (D) THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE MARYLAND
5 ENERGY ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE TASK FORCE.

6 (E) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE:

7 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
8 TASK FORCE; BUT

9 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
10 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE
11 BUDGET.

12 (F) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
13 REGARDING THE SITING OF OFFSHORE WIND FARM FACILITIES IN WATERS OFF
14 THE COAST OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING:

15 (1) STUDYING THE IMPACT OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND
16 OPERATION OF OFFSHORE WIND FARM FACILITIES AND ATTENDANT
17 TRANSMISSION CABLES ON:

18 (I) AQUATIC LIFE, MIGRATORY BIRDS, AND OTHER
19 WILDLIFE;

20 (II) COMMERCIAL SHIPPING, COMMERCIAL AND
21 RECREATIONAL FISHING, AND RECREATIONAL BOATING;

22 (III) COASTAL TOURISM; AND

23 (IV) COASTAL EROSION;

24 (2) EVALUATING THE EFFECT OF OFFSHORE WIND FARM
25 FACILITIES ON THE RELIABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF ELECTRICITY IN THE
26 STATE; AND

27 (3) STUDYING THE IMPACT OF OFFSHORE WIND FARM FACILITIES
28 ON THE ECONOMY OF THE STATE, INCLUDING THE POTENTIAL FOR NEW
29 EMPLOYMENT.

1 **(G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND**
2 **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246**
3 **OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR**
4 **BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2010.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30,
7 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
8 abrogated and of no further force and effect.