

SENATE BILL 424

P1

8lr1031

By: **Senator Madaleno**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2008

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Notary Commission Process**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study the Notary Commission
4 Process; providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing
5 for the designation of a chair of the Task Force; requiring the Office of the
6 Secretary of State to provide staff for the Task Force; prohibiting members of
7 the Task Force from receiving compensation, but authorizing certain
8 reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report its
9 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
10 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
11 relating to the Task Force to Study the Notary Commission Process.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Notary Commission Process.

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

16 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
17 of the Senate;

18 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;

20 (3) one representative from the Governor's office, appointed by the
21 Governor;

22 (4) the Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, or
2 the Director's designee;

3 (6) the Superintendent of the Maryland State Police, or the
4 Superintendent's designee;

5 (7) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
6 Secretary's designee; and

7 (8) the following three members, appointed by the Governor:

8 (i) a local Maryland representative of the National Notary
9 Association;

10 (ii) a representative of the banking industry; and

11 (iii) a representative of the land title industry.

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

13 (d) The Office of the Secretary of State shall provide staff for the Task Force.

14 (e) A member of the Task Force:

15 (1) may not receive compensation for serving on the Task Force; but

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

18 (f) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding:

19 (1) the application process to become a notary;

20 (2) verifying the U.S. citizenship of notary applicants;

21 (3) improved background checks for notary applicants;

22 (4) whether notary applicants should have to pass a written test; and

23 (5) increasing notary fees.

24 (g) On or before January 1, 2009, the Task Force shall report its findings and
25 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
26 Government Article, the General Assembly.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,

1 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.