

SENATE BILL 802

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6lr1804
CF 6lr2536

By: **Senator Pugh**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Examine Incentives and Funding Sources for Food Deserts**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Examine Incentives and Funding
4 Sources for Food Deserts; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the
5 Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
6 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; establishing
7 the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and
8 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain
9 date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task
10 Force to Examine Incentives and Funding Sources for Food Deserts.

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force to Examine Incentives and Funding Sources for Food
14 Deserts.

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

16 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
17 the Senate;

18 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
21 designee;

22 (4) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
23 Secretary's designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (5) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;
- 2 (6) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;
- 3 (7) a representative of the Maryland Retailers Association; and
- 4 (8) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 5 (i) one representative of an urban local economic development
6 organization in the State;
- 7 (ii) one representative of a rural local economic development
8 organization in the State;
- 9 (iii) one representative of a local grocery store or supermarket
10 retailer; and
- 11 (iv) one professor knowledgeable in economics and health policy.
- 12 (c) The Task Force shall elect a chair from among its members.
- 13 (d) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall provide staff for
14 the Task Force.
- 15 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 16 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 17 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
18 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 19 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 20 (1) review existing incentive and financing programs in the State available
21 to encourage the establishment of grocery stores and supermarket retailers in food deserts;
- 22 (2) identify ways to attract grocery stores and supermarket retailers in
23 urban and rural food deserts throughout the State; and
- 24 (3) make recommendations regarding specific funding sources available for
25 fresh food financing initiatives and programs in the State, including an estimate of the
26 annual expenditures necessary to attract grocery stores and supermarket retailers in food
27 deserts.
- 28 (g) On or before October 1, 2017, the Task Force shall report its findings and
29 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
30 Government Article, the General Assembly.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the end of
3 December 31, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
4 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.