

**SB0726/747874/1**

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 726

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, at the top of the page, strike “EMERGENCY BILL”; in line 2, strike “Clean Energy Technology Funding” and substitute “Task Force”; strike beginning with “expanding” in line 3 down through “measure” in line 19 and substitute “establishing the Task Force on the Maryland Clean Energy Center; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; specifying the charge of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to assess certain programs, review certain State financing instrumentalities, identify certain resources, review certain cost-effective opportunities, and make certain determinations; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the Office of Legislative Audits to conduct a certain performance audit; providing for the termination of this Act”; and in line 20, strike “and project funding”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 21 on page 1 through line 13 on page 2, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 15, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”; and after line 15, insert:

“(a) There is a Task Force on the Maryland Clean Energy Center.

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

(1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

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(2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Secretary of the Department of Economic Competitiveness and Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;

(4) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the Director's designee;

(5) the Executive Director of the Maryland Economic Development Corporation, or the Executive Director's designee;

(6) the Executive Director of the Maryland Technology Development Corporation, or the Executive Director's designee;

(7) the Executive Director of the Maryland Clean Energy Center, or the Executive Director's designee;

(8) the Executive Director of the Maryland Industrial Development Finance Authority, or the Executive Director's designee; and

(9) the Executive Director of the Maryland Environmental Service, or the Executive Director's designee.

(c) The presiding officers shall designate the cochairs of the Task Force from the members of the General Assembly appointed by the presiding officers.

(d) The Department of Legislative Services, in consultation with the Department of Economic Competitiveness and Commerce, shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e)    A member of the Task Force:

(1)    may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

(f)    The Task Force is charged with determining how best to make the Center self-sustaining without deviating from the Center's mission and charge to:

(1)    encourage the development of the clean energy industry and deployment of clean energy technologies in the State;

(2)    help retain and attract business activity and commerce in the clean energy technology industry sectors in the State; and

(3)    promote economic development and the health, safety, and welfare of residents of the State.

(g)    The Task Force shall:

(1)    assess the programs currently provided by the Center and the programs that, within its mission, charge, and structure, may be provided by the Center, including the establishment of a green bank;

(2)    review existing State financing instrumentalities that may have similar financing capabilities for purposes of determining whether there are advantages to the Center to coordinate or partner with those State financing instrumentalities on financing programs;

(3)    identify the availability of resource capacity in State financing instrumentalities for purposes of determining whether there are cost-effective

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opportunities for the Center to share resources with those State financing instrumentalities on financing programs;

(4) review other cost-effective opportunities, including having the Center co-locate with another State financing instrumentality or State agency, that may assist the Center during the time when the Center is working toward becoming self-sustaining;

(5) determine whether the outstanding balance of loans initiated in fiscal year 2009 from the Maryland Energy Administration should be converted to a grant and considered as start-up funds as a way in assisting the Center to become self-sustaining;

(6) determine an appropriate amount of State annual grant funding that the Center should receive for operating and program assistance as the Center works toward becoming self-sustaining and in no further need of operating and program support from the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund or any other State money; and

(7) consider any other related matter that the Task Force determines appropriate.

(h) On or before December 1, 2016, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.”.

On pages 2 through 20, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 16 on page 2 through line 26 on page 20, inclusive, and substitute:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Office of Legislative Audits shall conduct a performance audit of the Maryland Clean Energy Center.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.