

# SENATE BILL 586

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By: **Senators Middleton and Dyson**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2013

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the**  
3 **Southern Maryland Region**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub  
5 and Spoke Program in the Southern Maryland Region; providing for the  
6 composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the  
7 Task Force from receiving certain compensation; requiring the Task Force to  
8 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the  
9 Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of  
10 Agriculture and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for  
11 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study  
12 the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the Southern Maryland  
13 Region.

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

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke  
17 Program in the Southern Maryland Region, including Charles County, Calvert  
18 County, and St. Mary's County, to provide the low-income, working poor, and  
19 unemployed populations of that region with fresh farm products.

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

21 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
22 of the Senate;

23 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
24 the House;

25 (3) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee; and

2 (5) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

3 (i) a representative of the Southern Maryland Agricultural  
4 Development Commission;

5 (ii) a representative of the Southern Maryland Ministers  
6 Alliance; and

7 (iii) a representative of Farming 4 Hunger.

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

9 (d) The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission shall  
10 provide staff for the Task Force.

11 (e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation as a member  
12 of the Task Force.

13 (f) The Task Force shall:

14 (1) assess the needs of the low-income, working poor, and unemployed  
15 populations of the Southern Maryland region;

16 (2) study the infrastructure and equipment required to best serve  
17 those needs;

18 (3) make recommendations regarding the locations of collection and  
19 distribution sites throughout the region;

20 (4) make recommendations regarding the operation and management  
21 of a hub and spoke program, including human resources, the collaboration among  
22 members of the agricultural community and anti-hunger organizations, and processes  
23 for collecting and distributing locally-grown farm food;

24 (5) make recommendations regarding education and outreach efforts  
25 throughout the region regarding the hub and spoke program; and

26 (6) study and make recommendations regarding options for granting  
27 State and local tax incentives to individuals who donate locally-grown farm food to the  
28 hub and spoke program and how to verify the activities of those individuals.

29 (g) On or before December 1, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings  
30 and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and, in accordance with §  
31 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 June 1, 2013. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the  
3 end of June 30, 2014, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
4 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.