

Chapter 163

(House Bill 795)

AN ACT concerning

Task Force to Study ~~Nanotechnology and~~ Nanobiotechnology

FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study ~~Nanotechnology and~~ Nanobiotechnology; providing for the membership of the Task Force; providing for the ~~designation of~~ cochairs of the Task Force; providing for the meeting times and places of the Task Force; providing for the staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation and authorizing reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study certain matters; requiring the Task Force to make certain recommendations; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force to Study ~~Nanotechnology and~~ Nanobiotechnology.

Preamble

WHEREAS, Recent advances in ~~nanotechnology and~~ nanobiotechnology have the potential to revolutionize the treatment of cancer and other serious diseases as well as the development of state-of-the-art electronics, medical equipment, chemical processes, ~~building materials,~~ and a wide array of other commercial products; and

WHEREAS, Robust ~~nanotechnology and~~ nanobiotechnology industries in the State will create jobs, generate significant revenue for the State, and improve the quality of life for countless individuals; now, therefore,

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

- (a) There is a Task Force to Study ~~Nanotechnology and~~ Nanobiotechnology.
- (b) (1) The Task Force consists of the following members:
 - (i) ~~three members~~ one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
 - (ii) ~~three members~~ one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(iii) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the Secretary's designee;

(iv) the Chair of the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), or the Chair's designee;

(v) the Chair of the Tech Council of Maryland, or the Chair's designee; and

(vi) the following ~~ten~~ members appointed by the Governor:

1. three representatives of higher education institutions in Maryland involved in research or scholarship on ~~nanotechnology or~~ nanobiotechnology;

2. ~~three individuals who serve as the chair or president of a nanotechnology or nanobiotechnology organization or association;~~ representatives from regional or local business organizations that advocate on behalf of the life sciences; and

3. ~~two individuals who serve as chief executive officer of private nanotechnology companies; and~~

~~4~~ two individuals who serve as chief executive officer of private nanobiotechnology companies.

(2) The Governor shall also invite the following four representatives of federal agencies to serve as members of the Task Force:

(i) the Director of the National Institutes of Health, or the Director's designee;

(ii) the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or the Director's designee;

(iii) the Director of the Food and Drug Administration, or the Director's designee; and

(iv) the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, or the Director's designee.

(c) ~~The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each designate a member from the~~ members appointed from the General Assembly ~~to~~ shall serve as ~~cochair~~ cochairs of the Task Force.

(d) The Task Force shall meet at the times and places determined by the cochairs.

(e) The Department of Business and Economic Development and the Maryland Technology Development Corporation shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(f) 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.

(g) The Task Force shall:

(1) study:

(i) the benefits of ~~nanotechnology and~~ nanobiotechnology, including:

1. job creation;

2. the development of lifesaving treatments;

3. reductions in health care costs;

4. the development of state-of-the-art electronics, medical equipment, chemical processes, ~~building materials~~, and other commercial products;

5. the generation of revenue for the State; and

6. improvements to the quality of life for the State's citizens; and

(ii) the State's role in supporting Maryland's leadership in ~~nanotechnology and~~ nanobiotechnology, including:

1. promoting public-private partnerships;

2. assisting companies in technology transfers, including from research to commercial product;

3. promoting research;

4. protecting intellectual property;

5. offering appropriate financial incentives, including tax credits; and

6. capturing and leveraging federal funds for both public and private ventures; and

(2) make recommendations regarding actions that the State should take to promote the growth of the ~~nanotechnology and~~ nanobiotechnology industries in the State.

(h) On or before January 1, 2011, 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.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2010. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 13, 2010.