

**Appendix A**  
**House Bill 1559**

## CHAPTER 481

(House Bill 1559)

AN ACT concerning

### Task Force to Study the Governance and Structure of the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Governance and Structure of the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission; requiring the Task Force to study the governance and structure of the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission; specifying the membership and staffing of the Task Force; providing for the appointment of the chair of the Task Force; prohibiting members of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations by certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Governance and Structure of the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Governance and Structure of the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission.

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

(1) ~~three~~ five members appointed by the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners;

(2) ~~three~~ four members appointed by the St. Mary's County Delegation of the General Assembly, with each member of the delegation appointing one Task Force member; and

(3) one member from the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission, ~~appointed jointly by the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners and the St. Mary's County Delegation of the General Assembly.~~ appointed internally.

(c) ~~The St. Mary's County Delegation of the General Assembly and the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners shall jointly designate the~~ From among its members, the Task Force shall elect a chair of the Task Force.

(d) The St. Mary's County ~~Administrator shall provide~~ Delegation shall issue a request for proposal to the University of Maryland, College Park, the University of

Maryland Baltimore County, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and from the proposals received shall select 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 shall:

(1) study the governance and structure of the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission; and

(2) make recommendations regarding:

(i) the structure and governance of the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission; and

(ii) ~~whether to continue the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission~~ how best to continue the provision of water and sewer services to the citizens of St. Mary's County.

(g) On or before ~~September 1, 2009~~ July 1, 2010, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the St. Mary's County Delegation of the General Assembly and the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2009. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and, at the end of ~~May 31~~ August 31, 2010, 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, May 7, 2009.**

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE****Revised**

House Bill 1559

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Task Force to Study the Governance and Structure of the St. Mary's County  
Metropolitan Commission**

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Governance and Structure of the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission. The task force must study the governance and structure of the commission and make recommendations regarding the structure and governance of the commission and how best to continue the provision of water and sewer services to county citizens. The St. Mary's County Delegation to the General Assembly must issue a request for proposal (RFP) to three specified University System of Maryland universities and from the proposals received select staff for the task force. A report with findings and recommendations is due to the St. Mary's County Delegation of the General Assembly and the county commissioners by July 1, 2009.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009, and terminates August 31, 2010.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** St. Mary's County expenditures may increase minimally, depending on the results of the RFP process for selecting task force staff. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Background:** The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission (MetCom) was created by the General Assembly in 1957 to supply water and sewer service to residents in

St. Mary's County. As of May 1, 2005, MetCom operated 27 water systems and 4 sewer treatment plants and provided water service to 41,000 people and sewer service to 36,000 people. The commission's fiscal 2008 operating budget is \$10.3 million.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 24, 2009  
mam/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - April 7, 2009

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