

(11) five members appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to represent each of the following rural industry sectors:

- (i) agriculture;
- (ii) forestry;
- (iii) fisheries;
- (iv) mineral extraction; and
- (v) rural commercial finance or lending.

(c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly designate two of the members as co-chairs of the Task Force.

(d) The Task Force shall:

(1) examine the need for, and the feasibility of, establishing a financing development authority to assist Maryland's farming, fishing, forestry, and mining extraction industries with loans, financing, training, and technical and business planning assistance services;

(2) consider the types of loans, financing, training, technical and business planning assistance services, and other programs that a financing development authority should implement;

(3) consider the amount in which a financing development authority should be funded;

(4) consider whether the financing development authority should be an independent State government entity or be incorporated into an existing State government agency;

(5) develop recommendations regarding the establishment of the financing development authority; and

(6) report its recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before ~~November 1, 2001~~ December 1, 2000.

(e) The Department of Legislative Services, in consultation with the Department of Business and Economic Development, shall provide staff support for the Task Force.

(f) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation; but

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ July 1, 2000.