

staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation for serving on the Task Force; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring a certain report on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of the Task Force; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Identity Theft.

~~WHEREAS, The Federal Trade Commission recently estimated that 27.3 million people nationwide have been victims of some form of identity theft over the last 5 years, and 9.9 million people were victims during 2002 alone;~~

~~WHEREAS, Approximately 3,500 people in Maryland reported being victims of identity theft during 2002;~~

~~WHEREAS, Fraud based on identity theft cost businesses in the United States approximately \$47.6 billion, or approximately \$4,800 per victim on average;~~

~~WHEREAS, Victims of identity theft may be forced to spend months or even years and thousands of dollars to clear their good names and credit records; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Victims of identity theft may lose job opportunities, be refused credit, or even be arrested for crimes they did not commit; now, therefore,~~

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Identity Theft.

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

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

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

(3) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

(4) the Superintendent of State Police, or the Superintendent's designee;

(5) the Commissioner of Financial Regulation;

(6) the Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Administration, or the Administrator's designee;

~~(6)~~ (7) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association;

(ii) one representative of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association;

(iii) one representative of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association;

(iv) one representative from a State-chartered commercial bank or a national banking association having with a branch office in the State; and