

(2) Review the results of ongoing scientific research regarding climate change and its regional impacts on aquifer depletion and recharging models;

(3) Review local, State, and federal laws, regulations, and policies related to the management, development, conservation, and protection of ground and surface water resources;

(4) Assess the adequacy of existing governmental resources, regulatory enforcement, and monitoring programs that are available for the management, development, conservation, and protection of the State's ground and surface water resources; and

(5) ~~Develop models to assess trends regarding the State's major aquifers;~~
~~and~~

~~(6)~~ (i) Recommend additional actions, studies, policies, regulations, or laws necessary to assure that management and protection of the State's ground and surface water resources are conducted in a manner consistent with their long-term sustainable use and protection; and

(ii) Provide a cost estimate and funding alternatives for implementation of each recommendation.

(e) The Department of the Environment shall provide staffing for the Committee.

(f) A member of the Committee may not receive compensation for serving on the Committee but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(g) The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than December 31, 2006.

(h) The Committee shall include in its report to the General Assembly a recommendation on whether there is a need for the Committee to continue to evaluate the State's water resources after June 30, 2007.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

May 26, 2005

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have