

(12) THREE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS FROM RURAL COUNTIES, SELECTED BY THE SECRETARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS FOLLOWS:

- (I) ONE FROM THE EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND;
- (II) ONE FROM THE WESTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND; AND
- (III) ONE FROM SOUTHERN MARYLAND; AND

[(11)] ~~(12)~~ (13) 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 PRELIMINARY recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2000; AND

(7) BASED ON A COMPREHENSIVE INTERAGENCY ASSESSMENT OF THE NEEDS OF AFFECTED INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, EXPECTED