

(7) ~~a representative of union labor; and~~ employees union labor, designated jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates by the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO;

(8) a representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, designated by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce; and

(9) a representative of the academic profession who is knowledgeable in unemployment insurance law, designated jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

(c) ~~The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House jointly shall appoint the member of the general public, and shall jointly designate the chairperson from among the members of the Task Force.~~ co-chairs from among the Senate and House members appointed to the Task Force.

(d) The Task Force shall examine:

(1) the fairness of the existing charging and taxation system under current Maryland Unemployment Insurance law, taking into consideration the impact on small, medium, and large employers across a variety of industries;

(2) the fairness of the existing eligibility and benefit provisions under current Maryland Unemployment Insurance law;

~~(3)~~ (3) the need for altering the current system of charging and taxation in order to maintain the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund at a level sufficient to ensure that benefits will be paid from the Fund; and

~~(4)~~ (4) the impact of changes in the national and State economies and their relationship to changes in the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

(e) The Task Force shall make specific recommendations, including developing draft legislation, on what steps might be taken to ensure that payments into the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund remain adequate and equitable for both employees and employers.

(f) The Department of Legislative Services, ~~with assistance from~~ in consultation with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, shall provide staffing for the Task Force.

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

(h) On or before December 1, 2003, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations ~~to the Governor and~~, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of December 31, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.