

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall take effect June 1, 2002. If an acquisition of Prince George's Hospital Center, as defined in Section 2 of this Act, takes place before September 30, 2004, Section 1 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

~~SECTION 4.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2002. ~~It~~ Except as provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 4 months and, at the end of September 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved May 6, 2002.

CHAPTER 343

(House Bill 1)

AN ACT concerning

Commission on Maryland's Fiscal Structure

FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission on Maryland's Fiscal Structure; requiring the Commission to review and evaluate the State's budget and fiscal structure; requiring the Commission to make recommendations on changes to the State budget process and the State tax structure; requiring the Commission to make recommendations on methods to address certain funding needs for education, transportation, and health care and for addressing inefficiencies and improvements in State government services and operations; providing for the membership of the Commission; requiring an interim report by a certain date; providing for the staffing of the Commission; requiring a final report by a certain date; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the Commission on Maryland's Fiscal Structure.

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

(a) There is a Commission on Maryland's Fiscal Structure.

(b) The Commission shall review and evaluate the State's current budget and fiscal structure and make recommendations for:

(1) changes to the State budget process and procedures, Spending Affordability process, and Capital Debt Affordability process that would allow for more effective development and enactment of the annual State budget;

(2) ensuring that the State will have a progressive tax structure through examination of the income, sales, property, excise, and business taxes, including any changes that may be necessary to ensure equity and efficiency in the State's tax system;