

1. a comparison of the total tax burden in the State on the elderly and retirees as compared to other states; and

2. a comparison of the total tax burden in the State on the elderly and retirees as a percentage of personal income as compared to other states;

(iii) examine the benefits that the elderly and retirees provide to the local community and the State by participating in mentoring or volunteer programs or similar community activities; and

(iv) examine State and county expenditures on the elderly and retirees including health care expenditures.

(g) The Task Force shall:

(1) be appointed and organize and begin its deliberations no later than July 1, 2004; and

(2) submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly before December 31, 2004.

(h) The Task Force shall terminate on ~~December 31, 2004~~ May 31, 2005  
December 31, 2004.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2004.

Approved May 26, 2004.

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**CHAPTER 526**

**(House Bill 1009)**

AN ACT concerning

**Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program -  
Miscellaneous Enforcement Provisions**

FOR the purpose of requiring a local jurisdiction to make a certain presumption when considering a variance application under the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program; establishing certain burdens of proof and persuasion in an application for a certain variance; requiring a local jurisdiction to make certain findings and authorizing the findings to be based on certain evidence and testimony; authorizing a local jurisdiction to consider certain facts when making certain findings; requiring a local jurisdiction's critical area program to include certain buffer requirements and penalty provisions; authorizing a local jurisdiction to consider certain factors in determining the amount of a certain penalty; authorizing a local jurisdiction under certain circumstances to request certain enforcement assistance from the Chairman of the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area