AN ACT concerning

Task Force on Indoor Air Quality

FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Indoor Air Quality; providing for certain membership, duties, and staffing of the Task Force; providing for the designation of a chairman of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to issue a certain report by a certain date; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from participating in certain activities of the Task Force under certain circumstances; authorizing a member to receive certain reimbursements; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Indoor Air Quality.

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

(a) There is a Task Force on Indoor Air Quality.
(b) The Task Force consists of the following 13 members:

(1) Two members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) Two members of the Senate of Maryland appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) The Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary’s designee;

(4) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary’s designee; and

(5) The Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, or the Secretary’s designee;

(6) Six members appointed by the Governor as follows:

(i) Two representatives of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) repair industries;

(ii) Two representatives of not-for-profit organizations that focus on indoor air quality and related health issues, one of which shall come from the Maryland Industrial Hygiene Council;

(iii) One representative from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health;

(iv) One representative of local government;

(v) One building owner or manager; and

(vi) Two citizens affected by HVAC-related illnesses;

(vii) One representative from the Maryland State Licensed Beverage Association;

(viii) One representative from the Maryland Hotel and Motel Association;

(ix) One physician representative of the Maryland College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine with credentials and experience in the evaluation and treatment of illnesses related to indoor air quality; and

(x) One person with expertise in architecture or building design and engineering.

(c) The Governor shall designate the Chairman of the Task Force.

(d) The Task Force shall:
(1) Study the nature, location, and extent of health and environmental risks posed to workers as a result of molds, spores, and other toxic organisms located in the HVAC systems of office buildings, including:

(i) The relative risks associated with the manufacture, maintenance, and repair of HVAC systems;

(ii) Actual and projected costs for the medical treatment of HVAC-related illnesses; and

(iii) Actual and projected costs in loss of worker productivity because of HVAC-related illnesses;

(2) Make recommendations regarding:

(i) The prevention of workers' HVAC-related illnesses, including a monitoring program to identify the probable onset of HVAC-related illnesses and their underlying causes;

(ii) The institution of appropriate remedies and controls in office buildings that, because of the dangers of indoor air quality, expose workers to unwarranted health risks, including the best available treatment technology and the feasibility of voluntary prevention and pollution reduction programs;

(iii) A plan to provide educational information and, as may be necessary, warnings to affected workers regarding health and environmental risks associated with the indoor air quality of their office building sites; and

(iv) Legislative or regulatory measures that are necessary and appropriate to address current gaps in federal, State, and local protection of office workers from HVAC-borne toxins; and

(3) Submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, and subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, on or before July 1, 2002.

(e) The Department of the Environment, in cooperation with other State agencies represented on the Task Force shall provide staff support for the Task Force.

(f) 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.

(g) A member of the Task Force who misses two meetings of the Task Force may not participate in any decision making processes or recommendations of the Task Force.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the
end of July 31, 2002, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.