

Bill No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Requested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

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By: **Delegate Chisholm**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force; and generally  
4 relating to the Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force.

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

7 (a) There is a Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force.

8 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

9 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
10 the Senate;

11 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
12 House;

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

14 (4) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary’s designee;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (5)    the Executive Director of the Maryland Port Administration, or the  
2 Executive Director’s designee; and

3                   (6)    the following members, appointed by the Governor:

4                   (i)     one member who is an expert on confined aquatic disposal  
5 programs;

6                   (ii)    one representative of a sports fishing organization;

7                   (iii)  one representative of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation;

8                   (iv)   one representative of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

9                   (v)     one resident from each of the following legislative districts:

10                   1.     Maryland Legislative District 6;

11                   2.     Maryland Legislative District 31; and

12                   3.     Maryland Legislative District 46.

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

14           (d)    The Maryland Port Administration shall provide staff for the Task Force.

15           (e)    A member of the Task Force:

16                   (1)    may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

17                   (2)    is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
18 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

19           (f)    (1)    The Task Force shall strive for consensus among its members.

20                   (2)    An affirmative vote of a majority of members is needed for the Task  
21 Force to act.

1 (g) The Task Force shall:

2 (1) discuss and review:

3 (i) the overall concept and available options associated with  
4 confined aquatic disposal programs;

5 (ii) the State's requirements and long-term strategies for  
6 maintaining functional and thriving ports in Maryland;

7 (iii) the capacity limitations of the State's dredged material  
8 placement sites and the State's needs going forward;

9 (iv) the potential benefits and risks associated with confined aquatic  
10 disposal programs;

11 (v) the categories of dredged materials that should be permitted  
12 within confined aquatic disposal sites;

13 (vi) any financial impacts on neighboring communities in close  
14 proximity to confined aquatic disposal sites;

15 (vii) any limitations to be placed on confined aquatic disposal  
16 programs with consideration given to the following factors:

17 1. the location of confined aquatic disposal sites, including  
18 the selection of industrial versus residential areas and distance from shore;

19 2. the size of confined aquatic disposal sites;

20 3. noise levels associated with confined aquatic disposal;

21 4. times of day when dredged material may be added to  
22 confined aquatic disposal sites;

23 5. environmental impacts; and

24 6. any other factors the Task Force deems necessary; and

1 (viii) an approach for community outreach for any future confined  
2 aquatic disposal program;

3 (2) make a recommendation on whether the Maryland Port Authority  
4 should pursue the development of a confined aquatic disposal program or prohibit its use  
5 in the State; and

6 (3) if the Task Force recommends developing a confined aquatic disposal  
7 program, develop a list of best practices and legislative or other policy recommendations  
8 regarding the authorization or implementation of the program, including:

9 (i) selecting locations for confined aquatic disposal sites;

10 (ii) the size of confined aquatic disposal sites;

11 (iii) specifications on allowable dredged materials;

12 (iv) the consideration of impacts to neighboring communities,  
13 habitat, and the environment;

14 (v) outreach programs; and

15 (vi) any other subjects the Task Force deems necessary.

16 (h) On or before July 1, 2025, the Task Force shall report its findings and  
17 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
18 Government Article, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment,  
19 the House Environment and Transportation Committee, and the General Assembly.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
21 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the end of  
22 December 31, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall  
23 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.