

high-technology businesses and the Task Force to Examine the Applicability of Manufacturing Laws to High-Technology Businesses.

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Examine the Applicability of Manufacturing Laws to High-Technology Businesses.

(b) The Task Force consists of:

(1) 2 Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates;

(2) 2 Senators appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) The Director of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation or the Director's designee;

(4) 2 members, one of whom shall be a representative of the Maryland Municipal League and one of whom shall be a representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

(5) 5 members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

(i) 1 shall be nominated by the Suburban Maryland High Technology Council;

(ii) 1 shall be nominated by the Greater Baltimore Committee Technology Council;

(iii) 1 shall represent the University of Maryland System; and

(iv) 2 shall have background and experience in manufacturing; and

(6) The Secretary of Business and Economic Development or the Secretary's designee; and

(7) The Comptroller of the State or the Comptroller's designee.

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

(d) The Department of Business and Economic Development shall provide staff to the Task Force.

(e) The purpose of the Task Force is to:

(1) Determine the circumstances under which current State manufacturing laws apply to high-technology businesses, including exemptions under the Tax - General Article and the Tax - Property Article;

(2) Determine whether the applicability or inapplicability of those laws fosters or deters the growth of high-technology businesses in the State; and

(3) Develop legislative recommendations to further encourage and foster the growth of high-technology businesses in the State.