

Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring a certain report by a certain date; providing for the termination of the Task Force; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Pinhole Leaks in Copper Plumbing.

WHEREAS, More than 80% of domestic and commercial water pipes are made of copper; and

WHEREAS, Pinhole leaks in copper water pipes can cause extensive, costly damage to the buildings in which the pipes are located; and

WHEREAS, The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has received ~~five thousand~~ more than 4,600 complaints from citizens in Montgomery and Prince George's counties about pinhole leaks in copper water pipes; and

WHEREAS, The incidence of pinhole leaks is ~~unusually high in certain communities~~ higher in some areas than in other areas; and

WHEREAS, Claims for damages caused by pinhole leaks can contribute to increased premiums or cancellation of homeowners' insurance policies; now, therefore,

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

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Pinhole Leaks in Copper Plumbing.

(b) (1) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) (i) the Chairman of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, or the Chairman's designee;

(2) (ii) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the Secretary's designee;

(3) (iii) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

(4) (iv) the Commissioner of the Maryland Insurance Administration, or the Commissioner's designee;

(5) (v) two representatives designated by the Maryland Association of Counties;

(6) (vi) one faculty member from the University System of Maryland with expertise in the engineering and design of plumbing and piping, designated by the Chancellor; and

(7) (vii) the following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) 1. one representative of the copper plumbing industry master plumber who is a resident of Maryland, is licensed by the State Board of Plumbing, and has expertise in the installation and replacement of copper plumbing;

(ii) 2. one person with expertise in copper corrosion; and