

HOUSE BILL 700

R1

0lr2238

By: **Delegate Impallaria**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Highway Construction – Storm Drains – Covers and Task Force on Preventing**
3 **Debris From Entering Storm Drains**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that any new or replacement storm drain cover installed on
5 a street or highway in the State prevent debris larger than a certain height or
6 circumference from passing through the storm drain; establishing the Task Force on
7 Preventing Debris From Entering Storm Drains; providing for the composition,
8 chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from
9 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain
10 expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding
11 certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and
12 recommendations to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for
13 the termination of certain provisions of this Act; making a stylistic change; repealing
14 an obsolete provision of law; and generally relating to storm drain covers and the
15 Task Force on Preventing Debris From Entering Storm Drains.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Transportation
18 Section 8–648
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Transportation**

24 8–648.

25 Any new or replacement storm drain cover[,] installed on a street or highway in the

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 State[, after January 1, 1980,] shall [consist]:

2 **(1) PREVENT DEBRIS LARGER THAN 1 INCH IN HEIGHT OR**
3 **CIRCUMFERENCE FROM PASSING THROUGH THE STORM DRAIN; AND**

4 **(2) CONSIST of:**

5 [(1)] **(I)** Bars running perpendicular to the flow of traffic on the highway;

6 [(2)] **(II)** A grating composed of intersecting bars; or

7 [(3)] **(III)** Other designs approved by the Department of Transportation
8 which meet safety design criteria as well as engineering and structural design demands.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

10 (a) There is a Task Force on Preventing Debris From Entering Storm Drains.

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

12 (1) one representative of the Department of the Environment, designated
13 by the Secretary of the Environment;

14 (2) one representative of the Department of Natural Resources, designated
15 by the Secretary of Natural Resources;

16 (3) one representative of the State Highway Administration, designated by
17 the Administrator of the Administration; and

18 (4) one representative from each of the following organizations, selected by
19 the organization:

20 (i) the Chesapeake Bay Foundation;

21 (ii) Waterkeepers Chesapeake; and

22 (iii) the Maryland Watermen's Association.

23 (c) The Secretary of the Environment shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

24 (d) The Department of the Environment, the Department of Natural Resources,
25 and the State Highway Administration shall provide staff for the Task Force.

26 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

3 (f) The Task Force shall:

4 (1) study methods of preventing plastic bottles and other debris from
5 entering storm drains and washing into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries through
6 stormwater runoff;

7 (2) study the feasibility of incorporating grates in all storm drains to
8 prevent debris from entering the drains and inlets during a rain event;

9 (3) study the costs associated with preventing plastic bottles and other
10 debris from entering storm drains;

11 (4) study potential sources of funding to implement measures that will
12 prevent plastic bottles and other debris from entering storm drains;

13 (5) study the potential for the creation of pilot programs to prevent plastic
14 bottles and other debris from entering storm drains; and

15 (6) make recommendations regarding the prevention of plastic bottles and
16 other debris from entering storm drains.

17 (g) On or before November 1, 2021, the Task Force shall report its findings and
18 recommendations to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
19 Government Article.

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2020. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at
22 the end of September 30, 2022, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the
23 General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.