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**By: Delegates V. Mitchell and Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 1997

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Inter-LATA Network**

3 FOR the purpose of promoting telecommunication and computer networking among  
4 governmental and educational institutions in the State by requiring the Department  
5 of Budget and Management to provide a certain telecommunication and computer  
6 network in certain areas for certain purposes; declaring certain findings of the  
7 General Assembly; ~~authorizing the Department of Budget and Management to~~  
8 ~~adopt certain regulations; requiring certain moneys to be appropriated in the State~~  
9 ~~budget;~~ requesting the inclusion of certain appropriations during certain fiscal  
10 years; providing for the effective date of this Act; and generally relating to  
11 inter-LATA telecommunications in the State.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article - State Finance and Procurement  
14 Section 3-702  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

17 BY adding to  
18 Article - State Finance and Procurement  
19 Section 3-705  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

2

1 **Article - State Finance and Procurement**

2 3-702.

3 (a) The Department shall:

4 (1) coordinate the development, procurement, management and operation  
5 of telecommunication equipment, systems, and services by State government;

6 (2) acquire and manage common user telecommunication equipment,  
7 systems, or services and charge units of State government for their proportionate share of  
8 the costs of installation, maintenance, and operation of the common user  
9 telecommunication equipment, systems, or services;

10 (3) promote compatibility of telecommunication systems by developing  
11 policies, procedures, and standards for the acquisition and use of telecommunication  
12 equipment, systems, and services by units of State government;

13 (4) coordinate State government telecommunication systems and services by  
14 reviewing requests by units of State government for telecommunication equipment,  
15 systems, or services;

16 (5) advise units of State government about planning, acquisition, and  
17 operation of telecommunication equipment, systems, or services; and

18 (6) provide radio frequency coordination for State and local governments in  
19 accordance with regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

20 (b) The Department may make arrangement for a user other than a unit of State  
21 government to have access to and use of State telecommunication equipment, systems,  
22 and services and shall charge the user any appropriate amount to cover the cost of  
23 installation, maintenance, and operation of the telecommunication equipment, system, or  
24 service provided.

25 3-705.

26 (A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT:

27 (1) IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE TO FOSTER TELECOMMUNICATION  
28 AND COMPUTER NETWORKING AMONG STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, THEIR  
29 AGENCIES, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE;

30 (2) THE CURRENT ALIGNMENT OF INTERAGENCY AND EDUCATIONAL  
31 TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORKING IN THE STATE, BASED IN  
32 PART ON THE ARRANGEMENT OF LOCAL ACCESS AND TRANSPORT AREAS (LATAS),  
33 DOES NOT SERVE ALL AREAS OF THE STATE EQUALLY, BUT INSTEAD CREATES A  
34 DISPARITY BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN REGIONS;

35 (3) RATES FOR THE INTRASTATE INTER-LATA TELEPHONE  
36 COMMUNICATIONS NEEDED FOR EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF  
37 TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER RESOURCES ARE PROHIBITIVE FOR MANY  
38 SMALLER GOVERNMENTS, AGENCIES, AND INSTITUTIONS;

1 (4) THERE IS A NEED TO IMPROVE ACCESS, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL  
2 AREAS, TO EFFICIENT TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORK  
3 CONNECTIONS;

4 (5) IMPROVEMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER  
5 NETWORKING FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND EDUCATIONAL  
6 INSTITUTIONS PROMOTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE  
7 USE AND DEVELOPMENT, AND EFFICIENCY IN STATE AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION;  
8 AND

9 (6) THE USE OF IMPROVED STATE TELECOMMUNICATION AND  
10 COMPUTER NETWORKING UNDER THIS SECTION IS INTENDED NOT TO COMPETE  
11 WITH COMMERCIAL ACCESS TO ADVANCED NETWORK TECHNOLOGY, BUT RATHER  
12 TO FOSTER FUNDAMENTAL EFFICIENCIES IN GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION FOR  
13 THE PUBLIC GOOD.

14 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A TELECOMMUNICATION AND  
15 COMPUTER NETWORK IN THE STATE.

16 (2) THE NETWORK SHALL CONSIST OF:

17 (I) ONE OR MORE CONNECTION FACILITIES FOR  
18 TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER CONNECTION IN EACH LATA IN THE STATE;

19 (II) A BACKBONE COMPRISING ONE OR MORE INTER-LATA  
20 FIBER-OPTIC LINKS BETWEEN EACH TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY, USING A  
21 FAILURE-RESISTANT ARCHITECTURE, AND ADHERING TO THE DS3 STANDARD OR  
22 BETTER, TO ALLOW COMMUNICATION RATES OF AT LEAST 45 MEGABITS PER  
23 SECOND, AND MULTIPLEXING FOR TRANSMISSION OF VIDEO, VOICE, AND DATA;  
24 AND

25 (III) FACILITIES, AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT, AND SERVICES  
26 REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE NETWORK IN A RELIABLE AND SECURE MANNER.

27 (C) THE NETWORK SHALL BE ACCESSIBLE THROUGH DIRECT CONNECTION  
28 AND THROUGH LOCAL INTRA-LATA TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO STATE AND LOCAL  
29 GOVERNMENTS AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE  
30 STATE.

31 ~~(D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS FOR NETWORK  
32 SPECIFICATIONS DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE GOVERNMENTS AND  
33 INSTITUTIONS THAT USE THE NETWORK.~~

34 ~~(E) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET AN  
35 APPROPRIATION SUFFICIENT TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, AND UPGRADE  
36 THE TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORK REQUIRED UNDER THIS  
37 SECTION.~~

38 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor is requested  
39 to include in the State budget for each of the Fiscal Years 1999 through 2002 an  
40 appropriation of \$500,000 sufficient to lease or construct, operate, maintain, and upgrade

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1 the telecommunication and computer network required under § 3-705 of the State  
2 Finance and Procurement Article, as enacted by this Act.

3 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 July 1, 1997.