

HOUSE BILL 683

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P1

1999 Regular Session
9r1969
CF 9r1895

By: **Delegates Glassman, James, Boutin, Parrott, and Riley**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 1999
Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study a Statewide 800 Megahertz Communications System**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study a Statewide 800 Megahertz
4 Communications System; providing for the membership, duties, and staffing of
5 the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to certain persons by a certain
6 date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task
7 Force to Study a Statewide 800 Megahertz Communications System.

8 BY adding to
9 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
10 Section 18-317
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

13 **Preamble**

14 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has been investigating and studying the
15 concept of an 800 megahertz communications system since the early 1980s; and

16 WHEREAS, Consultants have been hired in the past to research this issue and
17 all have recommended that the State implement a statewide 800 megahertz wireless
18 communications system; and

19 WHEREAS, This system would provide State and local government agencies
20 with access to an efficient and reliable multipurpose statewide wireless voice, data,
21 fax, and imaging communications system; and

22 WHEREAS, A statewide system would provide capacity for all State
23 departments and agencies and could be shared with local and federal governments;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Most jurisdictions have daily emergencies that need response from
26 neighboring counties; and

1 WHEREAS, A statewide communications system would facilitate
2 communications between emergency operations centers and result in a much safer
3 atmosphere for firefighters, police officers, and citizens of the State; and

4 WHEREAS, There could be cost sharing with State, local, and federal
5 governments; and

6 WHEREAS, The Department of Budget and Management prepared a favorable
7 report in 1998 on the feasibility of such a system; now, therefore,

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

10 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

11 18-317.

12 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY A STATEWIDE 800 MEGAHERTZ
13 COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

14 (B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

15 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTED BY THE
16 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

17 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY THE
18 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

19 (3) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARYLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE AND
20 RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS;

21 (4) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARYLAND POLICE CHIEFS;

22 (5) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
23 CENTERS;

24 (6) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE;

25 (7) TWO PAID FIREFIGHTERS;

26 (8) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE; AND

27 (9) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE,
28 SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE.

29 (C) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
30 DELEGATES SHALL JOINTLY SELECT THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE FROM THE
31 APPOINTED MEMBERS.

32 (D) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY AND EVALUATE:

1 (1) FUNDING ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF A
2 STATEWIDE 800 MEGAHERTZ COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM;

3 (2) PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING AND MAINTAINING A STATEWIDE 800
4 MEGAHERTZ COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM;

5 (3) PHYSICAL INVENTORY OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
6 INFRASTRUCTURE; AND

7 (4) RESOURCE SHARING AGREEMENTS WITH EXISTING
8 COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE OWNERS.

9 (E) MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION
10 EXCEPT THAT THE MEMBERS MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
11 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

12 (F) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF
13 SUPPORT TO THE TASK FORCE.

14 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL PROVIDE A FINAL REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND
15 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF
16 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY DECEMBER 31,
17 1999.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 July 1, 1999. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
20 2000, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
21 abrogated and of no further force and effect.