

SENATE BILL 653

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C5

2002 Regular Session
(2r2629)

ENROLLED BILL
-- Finance/Environmental Matters --

Introduced by Senators Roesser, Forehand, Frosh, and ~~Ruben Ruben,~~
Colburn, Dorman, Dyson, Green, Kelley, Middleton, Pinsky, Van Hollen,
Astle, DeGrange, Exum, Hafer, Hooper, and Teitelbaum

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

President.

CHAPTER 179

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Moving Overhead Utility Lines Underground**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Moving Overhead Utility
4 Lines Underground; providing for the composition, duties, and staff of the Task
5 Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General
6 Assembly by a certain date; providing for a delayed effective date; providing for
7 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study
8 Moving Overhead Utility Lines Underground.

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

11 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Moving Overhead Utility Lines
12 Underground. The Task Force shall be composed of:

- 1 (1) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
2 the House;
- 3 (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
4 the Senate;
- 5 (3) the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation, or the
6 Secretary's designee;
- 7 (4) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, or the Chairman's
8 designee;
- 9 (5) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the
10 Director's designee;
- 11 (6) the Special Secretary of the Office of Smart Growth, or the Special
12 Secretary's designee; ~~and~~
- 13 (7) the People's Counsel, or a designee of the People's Counsel; and
- 14 (8) the following ~~12~~ members, appointed by the Governor:
- 15 (i) ~~two members representing the electricity transmission industry~~
16 ~~three~~ two members representing electric distribution companies that are engaged in
17 electric distribution and transmission, each from a different geographic part of the
18 State;
- 19 (ii) one member representing an electric company that is engaged
20 solely in electric distribution;
- 21 (ii) ~~(iii)~~ (iii) two members representing the telephone industry;
- 22 (iii) ~~(iv)~~ (iv) two members representing the cable television industry;
- 23 (iv) ~~(v)~~ (v) two members representing the natural gas distribution
24 industry;
- 25 (v) ~~(vi)~~ (vi) two members representing the Maryland Municipal
26 League; and
- 27 (vi) ~~(vii)~~ (vii) two members representing the Maryland Association of
28 Counties; and
- 29 (viii) two members representing the Utility Contractors Association.
- 30 (b) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.
- 31 (c) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on
32 the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
33 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

1 (d) The Task Force shall:

2 (1) study and make recommendations to identify the best possible means
3 of facilitating and reducing the costs of placing overhead utility lines underground;

4 (2) study and make recommendations to identify a process by which
5 public service companies and municipal corporations can coordinate construction,
6 long-term maintenance, and repair projects located on or near roadways in the
7 municipal corporations, including moving overhead utility lines underground; and

8 ~~(2)~~ (3) report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, and
9 in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General
10 Assembly on or before December 31, 2003.

11 (e) The Maryland Office of Smart Growth, with assistance from the Public
12 Service Commission, shall provide oversight and coordination of the Task Force.

13 (f) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide the staff support for
14 the Task Force.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 January 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
17 December 31, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
18 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.