

SB0717/997576/1

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 717
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “Senator Eckardt” and substitute “Senators Eckardt, Middleton, Astle, Benson, Feldman, Hershey, Jennings, Klausmeier, Mathias, Reilly, Rosapepe, and Oaks”; strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute “Connecting Rural Maryland Act of 2017”; in line 3, after “on” insert “Rural”; in the same line, after “Internet” insert “, Broadband”; in line 4, strike “on the Eastern Shore”; in line 5, after “Force;” insert “authorizing the chair of the Task Force to appoint additional members to the Task Force as deemed necessary by the chair;”; in line 10, after the first “on” insert “Rural”; in the same line, after “Internet” insert “, Broadband”; and in lines 10 and 11, strike “on the Eastern Shore”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 14, after the first “on” insert “Rural”; in the same line, after “Internet” insert “, Broadband”; in lines 14 and 15, strike “on the Eastern Shore”; in line 16, strike “The” and substitute “Subject to subsection (c)(2) of this section, the”; in line 17, after “(1)” insert “four members of the Senate of Maryland, one who represents Western Maryland, one who represents Southern Maryland, one who represents the Eastern Shore, and one who represents Frederick, Carroll, or Harford counties, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) four members of the House of Delegates, one who represents Western Maryland, one who represents Southern Maryland, one who represents the Eastern Shore, and one who represents Frederick, Carroll, or Harford counties, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3);

(Over)

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in lines 18, 21, and 23, strike “(2)”, “(4)”, and “(5)”, respectively, and substitute “(4)”, “(5)”, and “(9)”, respectively; strike in their entirety lines 19 and 20; and strike beginning with “a” in line 21 down through “League” in line 22 and substitute “the Executive Director of the Rural Maryland Council, or the Executive Director’s designee;”

(6) one representative of the Public Service Commission, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission;

(7) one representative of each regional council in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore, appointed by the council of that region;

(8) one representative of a multicounty organization serving rural communities in Frederick, Carroll, or Harford counties, appointed by the chair of the Task Force”.

On page 2, in line 1, strike “one representative of Verizon;” and substitute “four representatives from the Internet and Broadband industry; and”; strike beginning with “one” in line 2 down through “Association” in line 4 and substitute “four representatives from the telecommunications industry”; in line 5, after “(c)” insert “(1)”; in the same line, strike “Governor shall designate” and substitute “Executive Director of the Rural Maryland Council, or the Executive Director’s designee, shall serve as”; after line 5, insert:

“(2) The chair of the Task Force may appoint additional members to the Task Force as deemed necessary by the chair.”;

in line 12, after “how” insert “Western Maryland counties, Southern Maryland counties,”; in line 13, after “counties” insert “, and Frederick, Carroll, and Harford counties”; in the same line, after “Internet” insert “, Broadband”; in line 14, after “accessibility” insert “in Western Maryland, in Southern Maryland,”; in the same line, after “Shore” insert “, and in Frederick, Carroll, and Harford counties”; in line 15, strike

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“The” and substitute “In accordance with paragraph (3) of this subsection, the”; strike beginning with “include” in line 15 down through “Shore” in line 17 and substitute “:

(i) assess current Internet, Broadband, wireless, cellular, and landline service connectivity;

(ii) assess coverage for the users located at the end of the:

1. Internet service connectivity;

2. Broadband service connectivity;

3. wireless service connectivity;

4. cellular service connectivity; and

5. landline service connectivity;

(iii) evaluate redundancies and gaps in the current Internet, Broadband, wireless, cellular, and landline service connectivity; and

(iv) evaluate any federal funds applied for in response to any previous Broadband task force in the State.

(3) The study required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be based on publicly available and nonconfidential information”;

and in line 18, strike “December 31” and substitute “November 30”.