

# HOUSE BILL 243

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CF SB 968

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By: **Delegates Krimm, Mautz, Afzali, Arentz, Beitzel, Buckel, Carozza, Ciliberti, Folden, Ghrist, Glass, Jacobs, Jameson, Krebs, Lisanti, McKay, A. Miller, Otto, Rose, Sample-Hughes, Vogt, Wivell, ~~and K. Young~~ K. Young, Adams, Aumann, Barkley, Carey, S. Howard, and W. Miller**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2018

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2018

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless, and Cellular Service –**  
3 **Study and Extension**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Task Force on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless, and  
5 Cellular Service, in conducting a certain study, to solicit input from certain entities;  
6 expanding the scope of a certain study; extending the date by which the Task Force  
7 must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General  
8 Assembly; extending the termination date of the Task Force; and generally relating  
9 to the Task Force on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless, and Cellular Service.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Chapter 620 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017  
12 Section 1(f) and (g) and 2

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Chapter 621 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017  
15 Section 1(f) and (g) and 2

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

18 **Chapter 620 of the Acts of 2017**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 (f) (1) (I) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations  
4 regarding how ~~Western Maryland counties, Southern Maryland counties, Eastern Shore~~  
5 ~~counties, and Frederick, Carroll, and Harford counties~~ can work together to obtain federal  
6 assistance to improve Internet, Broadband, wireless, and cellular services and accessibility  
7 in ~~Western Maryland, in Southern Maryland, on the Eastern Shore, and in Frederick,~~  
8 ~~Carroll, and Harford counties~~ RURAL AREAS OF MARYLAND.

9 (II) IN CONDUCTING THE STUDY REQUIRED UNDER  
10 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SOLICIT INPUT  
11 FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ~~AND, INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND WIRELESS~~  
12 ~~SERVICE PROVIDERS~~ ON IDENTIFYING UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED RURAL  
13 AREAS IN WESTERN OF MARYLAND COUNTIES, SOUTHERN MARYLAND COUNTIES,  
14 ~~EASTERN SHORE COUNTIES, AND FREDERICK, CARROLL, AND HARFORD~~  
15 ~~COUNTIES.~~

16 (2) In accordance with paragraph (3) of this subsection, the study required  
17 under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall:

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

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

- 21 1. Internet service connectivity;
- 22 2. Broadband service connectivity;
- 23 3. wireless service connectivity;
- 24 4. cellular service connectivity; and
- 25 5. landline service connectivity;

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

28 (iv) evaluate any federal funds applied for in response to any  
29 previous Broadband task force in the State; AND

30 (V) EXAMINE HOW TO ACCESS MAPS SUFFICIENT TO:

- 31 1. EDUCATE THE PUBLIC; AND



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- 1                                   2.     Broadband service connectivity;
- 2                                   3.     wireless service connectivity;
- 3                                   4.     cellular service connectivity; and
- 4                                   5.     landline service connectivity;

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

7                                   (iv) evaluate any federal funds applied for in response to any  
8 previous Broadband task force in the State; **AND**

9                                   **(V) EXAMINE HOW TO ACCESS MAPS SUFFICIENT TO:**

10                                   **1. EDUCATE THE PUBLIC; AND**

11                                   **2. CALCULATE COSTS FOR UNIVERSAL LAST-MILE**  
12 **BROADBAND COVERAGE.**

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

15                                   (g) On or before November 30, [2017] **2018**, the Task Force shall report its  
16 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the  
17 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

18                                   **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, That this Act shall take effect June  
19 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of [1 year] **2 YEARS** and, at the end of May  
20 31, [2018] **2019**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall  
21 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

22                                   **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, That this Act shall take effect June  
23 1, 2018.