

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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1996 Regular Session
6lr2936

By: Senator Young

Introduced and read first time: February 26, 1996

Assigned to: Rules

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Public Service Commission - Telecommunications - Universal Service**

3 FOR the purpose of directing the Public Service Commission to define universal service
4 and establish a mechanism for funding universal service.

5 WHEREAS, Universally available, widely affordable, reliable, and advanced
6 telecommunications services are essential to the health, welfare, and prosperity of the
7 citizens of the State; and

8 WHEREAS, Federal Legislation and regulatory and judicial rulings have caused a
9 restructuring of the telecommunications industry and have opened the industry to
10 competition, thereby requiring revision of State telecommunications regulatory policies
11 and practices; and

12 WHEREAS, The single most important consideration in managing the transition
13 to competition is to ensure that all residents of the State have universal service; and

14 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure universally
15 available, widely affordable, reliable, and advanced telecommunications services; and

16 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly that all providers of
17 telecommunications services should make an equitable and nondiscriminatory
18 contribution to preserving and advancing universal service; and

19 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure the efficient
20 delivery of technological advances and new services throughout the State to improve the
21 quality of life for the people of Maryland; and

22 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Public Service
23 Commission have flexibility during the current period of transition in the
24 telecommunications industry, while keeping as its main purpose the protection of the
25 public interest; now, therefore, be it

26 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That the
27 Public Service Commission shall define universal service as an evolving level of
28 telecommunications services that the Public Service Commission periodically shall revise,
29 taking into account advances in technologies and services; and be it further

30 **RESOLVED,** That the Public Service Commission shall determine the appropriate
31 methods to fund universal service; and be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
2 Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the
3 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
4 Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.