
By: Senator Young

Introduced and read first time: February 26, 1996

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Finance, March 8, 1996

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 1996

RESOLUTION NO.

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

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1 telecommunications industry, while keeping as its main purpose the protection of the
2 public interest; now, therefore, be it

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

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

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