

Unofficial Copy
P1
HB 930/96 - CGM

1997 Regular Session
7lr1246

By: Delegates Kagan, Cryor, Pendergrass, Turner, Conroy, Hixson, Bobo, Healey, Dypski, Dembrow, Barve, Gordon, Workman, Heller, Mandel, Willis, Patterson, D. Davis, Preis, Howard, Clagett, Crumlin, Benson, Hurson, Menes, Shriver, Franchot, R. Baker, and Kopp

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 1997
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 11, 1997

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government - Toll Free Telephone Access**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each unit of State government to install and maintain a toll
4 free telephone system to allow a person from anywhere in the State to communicate
5 with employees of the unit on official State business during the unit's regular
6 business hours; requiring each unit to include its toll free telephone numbers in any
7 directory that lists information about the unit; requiring each unit to publicize its
8 toll free telephone numbers on its official stationery and certain other of its
9 publications; and generally relating to the maintenance and publication of toll free
10 telephone numbers by units of State government.

11 BY adding to

12 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
13 Section 18-206
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

18 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

19 18-206.

20 (A) EACH UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT SHALL INSTALL AND MAINTAIN A
21 TELEPHONE SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS A PERSON FROM ANYWHERE IN THE STATE TO

2

1 COMMUNICATE WITH EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIT BY TOLL FREE TELEPHONE DURING
2 THE UNIT'S REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS TO CONDUCT OFFICIAL STATE BUSINESS.

3 (B) (1) EACH UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT SHALL PRINT EACH OF ITS
4 TOLL FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ON THE UNIT'S OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS,
5 INCLUDING STATIONERY, FAX COVER SHEETS, BUSINESS CARDS, AND OTHER
6 PUBLICATIONS THAT ARE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC.

7 (2) EACH UNIT SHALL INCLUDE EACH OF ITS TOLL FREE TELEPHONE
8 NUMBERS IN ANY DIRECTORY THAT LISTS INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIT.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be
10 construed to require that a unit of State government dispose of or otherwise destroy or
11 discard any official stationery or other publications that do not comply with the
12 requirements of this Act on the effective date of this Act. The unit may continue to utilize
13 any stationery or other official publications in its possession on the effective date of this
14 Act that do not comply with the requirements of this Act until its supply of such
15 stationery and publications is exhausted.

16 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 1997.