
By: Delegate Petzold

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 1997

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commercial Law - Task Force on Digital Signature Law**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor of Maryland, the President of the Senate of
4 Maryland, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates to establish a Task Force on
5 Digital Signature Law for purposes of studying and making recommendations on
6 digital signature law in the State; requiring the Task Force to consist of certain
7 members; requiring the Task Force to be chaired and staffed by certain personnel;
8 requiring the Task Force to make a final report to the Governor and the Legislative
9 Policy Committee by a certain date; and generally relating to the Task Force on
10 Digital Signature Law.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That the Governor of Maryland, the President of the Senate of Maryland,
13 and the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall establish the Task Force on Digital
14 Signature Law for purposes of studying and making recommendations on digital signature
15 law in the State. In particular, the Task Force shall address the issues of:

- 16 (a) the extent to which digital signature technology should be available or
17 mandated in transactions within and between the private and public sectors;
- 18 (b) qualifications for a certification authority;
- 19 (c) alternatives for the standard of care in safeguarding private keys;
- 20 (d) alternatives to the degree and scope of regulation of a certification authority;
- 21 (e) alternatives for assuring the financial responsibility of a certification authority;
22 and
- 23 (f) coordination with digital signature law in other states.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Task Force shall
25 consist of the following 15 members:

- 26 (a) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 27 (b) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
28 House;
- 29 (c) The Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee; and

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1 (d) The following members appointed by the Governor of Maryland:

2 (1) One representative of the Department of Business and Economic
3 Development;

4 (2) One representative of the Administrative Office of the Courts;

5 (3) Two representatives of the Maryland State Bar Association;

6 (4) One representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce;

7 (5) One representative of the Maryland Bankers Association; and

8 (6) Four representatives from the general public.

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Task Force shall be
10 chaired by the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, and staffed by personnel
11 from the Office of the Secretary of State.

12 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Task Force shall make
13 a final report to the Governor of Maryland and the Legislative Policy Committee, in
14 accordance with the provisions of § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, by
15 December 1, 1997.

16 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 June 1, 1997.