
By: **Delegates Rosenberg, Barve, and Frank**
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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on High-Speed Network Development**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on High-Speed Network
4 Development; providing for the membership, purposes, and duties of the Task
5 Force; requiring cooperation of and coordination among certain units concerning
6 the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to provide certain reports to certain
7 persons by certain dates; providing for the effective date and termination of this
8 Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on High-Speed Network
9 Development.

10 BY adding to
11 Article - State Finance and Procurement
12 Section 3-706
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, In several areas of the country, notably in the Research Triangle of
17 North Carolina, Palo Alto, California, and in the Commonwealth of Virginia,
18 developments involving intensive high-speed computer networking are spurring both
19 academic research and practical economic development; and

20 WHEREAS, In North Carolina and Palo Alto, investment in computing
21 infrastructure, including connections capable of supporting data transmission in the
22 gigabit-per-second range, are fostering public-private partnerships and
23 technological developments at an accelerating rate; and

1 WHEREAS, In Virginia, the groundwork has been laid to do the same statewide,
2 by imposition of a uniform data connection rate in telecommunication tariffs,
3 regardless of the distance required to support the new NET.WORK.VIRGINIA, styled
4 as an advanced, broadband network delivering ATM (asynchronous transfer mode)
5 service statewide, and providing gateways to high-speed federal networks,
6 educational institutions, and the Internet; and

7 WHEREAS, In West Virginia, the private and public sectors, working in concert,
8 are working to link all areas of the state with fiber-optic networks for use by
9 businesses, schools, and government, to interconnect government agencies and
10 provide compatible data sharing, and eliminate paper recordkeeping where feasible;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth has initiated a Team
13 Pennsylvania Business Resource Center and Business Resource Network to spur
14 high-tech industries to locate and expand there, offering information and support,
15 while colleges and universities are participating in the Internet 2 high-speed
16 broad-bandwidth network development, and hospitals and health organizations are
17 developing high-speed digital multimedia networks for teaching and health care; and

18 WHEREAS, In Delaware, high-speed networking is being developed to
19 facilitate government agency functions and interconnection, as well as public school
20 multimedia interactions and electronic commerce; and

21 WHEREAS, In Maryland, despite the individual achievements of a number of
22 institutions of higher learning and resident federal agencies in developing substantial
23 computing resources, the lack of high-speed networking capacity limits the ability of
24 these entities and commercial ventures to interact, particularly in areas outside of the
25 Baltimore-Washington corridor; and

26 WHEREAS, In the long term, to achieve the intensive development being
27 experienced in North Carolina and Palo Alto, a much greater bandwidth in computer
28 networking capacity will be needed - points of presence capable of handling data
29 transmission in the million-bits-per-second range, known as gigaPOPs; and

30 WHEREAS, Maryland will be best served by building on its existing strengths -
31 excellent academic institutions and large-scale federal agencies, several of which
32 have a capacity for high-speed computer networking either in existence now, or in
33 development; networking these entities allows the sort of research and development
34 opportunities needed to attract and develop high-tech commercial ventures; and

35 WHEREAS, Expanding high-speed networking Statewide also helps to
36 integrate our educational and economic needs for the next century, when we will need
37 to provide new skilled labor in information technology and related fields; and

38 WHEREAS, Based on experience with the earlier development of the telephone
39 and of the Internet, the true long-term benefits and applications made possible by
40 high-speed computer networking, beyond real-time video conferencing for
41 interactive medicine, distance learning, and governmental information sharing, are
42 likely to be in areas and applications undreamed of today; now, therefore,

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

3 **Article - State Finance and Procurement**

4 3-706.

5 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE ON HIGH-SPEED NETWORK DEVELOPMENT.

6 (B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING 28 MEMBERS:

7 (1) THE GOVERNOR, OR THE GOVERNOR'S DESIGNEE;

8 (2) THE SECRETARY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

9 (3) THE SECRETARY OF BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT,
10 OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

11 (4) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S
12 DESIGNEE;

13 (5) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S
14 DESIGNEE;

15 (6) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, OR THE
16 CHAIRMAN'S DESIGNEE; AND

17 (7) THE FOLLOWING 22 MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

18 (I) TWO TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDERS, REPRESENTING LOCAL
19 EXCHANGE SERVICE AND INTEREXCHANGE SERVICE PROVIDERS;

20 (II) TWO CABLE SERVICE PROVIDERS;

21 (III) THREE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS;

22 (IV) SIX MEMBERS REPRESENTING HIGHER EDUCATION,
23 INCLUDING PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, AND COMMUNITY
24 COLLEGES;

25 (V) THREE MEMBERS REPRESENTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN
26 THE STATE;

27 (VI) THREE MEMBERS REPRESENTING FEDERAL AGENCIES
28 LOCATED IN THE STATE; AND

29 (VII) THREE MEMBERS REPRESENTING HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES
30 LOCATED IN THE STATE.

31 (C) TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE
32 APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

1 (D) THE GOVERNOR MAY REMOVE A MEMBER FOR FAILURE REGULARLY TO
2 ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE TASK FORCE.

3 (E) FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE THE GOVERNOR SHALL
4 SELECT A CHAIRMAN.

5 (F) THE CHAIRMAN MAY ESTABLISH SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE TASK FORCE
6 TO ASSIST IN THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE.

7 (G) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE:

8 (1) SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION; BUT

9 (2) ARE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
10 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

11 (H) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

12 (1) STUDY DEVELOPMENTS IN REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE
13 HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORKING IS BEING DEVELOPED, INCLUDING NORTH
14 CAROLINA, CALIFORNIA, VIRGINIA, AND WEST VIRGINIA, ASSESSING THE COMPUTER
15 NETWORKING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THOSE AREAS, THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
16 IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR NETWORKS, AND THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT BENEFITS
17 AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR NETWORKS AND INTERCONNECTIONS WITH
18 THEM;

19 (2) ASSESS:

20 (I) THE NEED FOR, USES OF, AND MEANS TO ENCOURAGE AND
21 DEVELOP HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORKING THROUGHOUT THE STATE;

22 (II) THE RESOURCES, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND COST STRUCTURES
23 NOW IN PLACE OR AVAILABLE IN THE VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE STATE FOR
24 DEVELOPING HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORKING;

25 (III) SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM BENEFICIARIES OF
26 HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORKING, AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT THEY MAY
27 MAKE TO DEVELOPMENT OF THAT NETWORKING CAPACITY IN THE STATE;

28 (IV) THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER
29 NETWORKING IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF EDUCATIONAL AND
30 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS THE STATE'S LONG-TERM SKILLED
31 WORKFORCE NEEDS;

32 (V) CONFIGURATION OPTIONS FOR PROVIDING POINTS OF
33 PRESENCE, FOR PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND RESIDENTIAL ACCESS, SUPPORTING DATA
34 TRANSMISSION RATES OF AT LEAST 2 GIGABITS PER SECOND AT AN ECONOMICALLY
35 REASONABLE LEVEL IN ALL AREAS OF THE STATE;

1 (VI) THE FEASIBILITY OF USING EXISTING LEGAL MECHANISMS
2 AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT OF
3 STATEWIDE HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORKING; AND

4 (VII) OTHER MATTERS THAT THE TASK FORCE CONSIDERS
5 PERTINENT TO ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORKING
6 ACROSS THE STATE;

7 (3) DEVELOP SPECIFIC GOALS FOR THE STATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT
8 OF HIGH-SPEED NETWORK CAPACITY, INCLUDING:

9 (I) ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFINITIES AND
10 INTERCONNECTION AMONG THE GOVERNMENTAL UNITS IN THE STATE,
11 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY;

12 (II) ESTABLISHING PARITY OF HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORK
13 ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE IN
14 UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED AREAS;

15 (III) SUPPORT OF HIGH-SPEED NETWORK DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
16 AVAILABLE GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTIONS;

17 (IV) DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS
18 FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INCREASED QUALITY AND
19 AVAILABILITY OF EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, IMPROVED
20 GOVERNMENTAL SERVICE, AND OTHER PUBLIC BENEFITS; AND

21 (V) OTHER GOALS THAT THE TASK FORCE DETERMINES TO BE IN
22 THE PUBLIC INTEREST;

23 (4) DEVELOP PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
24 ESTABLISHMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF EACH SEGMENT OF STATEWIDE
25 HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORKING, INCLUDING:

26 (I) STATE POLICIES FOR THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT, AND
27 EQUITABLE USE OF HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORKING;

28 (II) REQUIRED EQUIPMENT, CONFIGURATION, AND LOCATION TO
29 PROVIDE EFFECTIVE STATEWIDE ACCESS;

30 (III) SOURCES OF FUNDING AND SUPPORT, INCLUDING
31 LEVERAGING OF STATE AND FEDERAL RESOURCES;

32 (IV) PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS IN DEVELOPMENT AND
33 USE OF HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORKING;

34 (V) FOSTERING AFFINITIES AND COMBINATIONS OF NETWORK
35 USERS TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT;

1 (VI) PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR ENHANCING COMPUTING
2 RESOURCES AT THE STATE'S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING; AND

3 (VII) ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIFORM,
4 ECONOMICALLY REASONABLE COST STRUCTURES FOR ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED
5 COMPUTER NETWORKING ACROSS THE STATE;

6 (5) CONDUCT HEARINGS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS AND
7 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL UNITS, INTERESTED
8 PARTIES, AND THE PUBLIC ON HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORK DEVELOPMENT
9 ISSUES STUDIED BY THE TASK FORCE;

10 (6) GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TASK FORCE'S
11 RECOMMENDATIONS, DETERMINE WHETHER:

12 (I) BUDGET PROVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE
13 DEVELOPED FOR INCLUSION IN THE STATE BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2000, 2001,
14 AND FOLLOWING, AND, IF SO, DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THOSE BUDGETS;

15 (II) LEGISLATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE 1999 OR 2000
16 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
17 THE TASK FORCE AND, IF SO, DRAFT A MODEL FOR THE LEGISLATION; AND

18 (III) PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES IN STATE PROCUREMENT OR OTHER
19 AREAS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY REGULATION AND, IF SO, DRAFT A MODEL FOR
20 THE REGULATION; AND

21 (7) CONSIDER ANY OTHER PERTINENT ISSUES.

22 (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE TASK FORCE.

23 (J) (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS WITH OTHER
24 STATE UNITS INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE'S COMPUTING
25 RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE INFORMATION
26 TECHNOLOGY BOARD.

27 (2) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND UNITS SHALL COOPERATE
28 FULLY WITH THE TASK FORCE TO ASSIST IN ITS WORK.

29 (K) AS NEEDED TO COMPLETE ITS WORK, THE TASK FORCE MAY HIRE
30 CONSULTANTS OR EXPERTS TO ASSIST IT IN COMPLETING ITS WORK.

31 (L) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO §
32 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

33 (1) AN INITIAL REPORT ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1999; AND

34 (2) THE FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
35 OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2000.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 June 1, 1998. It shall remain in effect for a period of 2 years and, at the end of May 30,
3 2000, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
4 abrogated and of no further force and effect.