

SENATE BILL 492

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1999 Regular Session
9r1895
CF 9r1969

By: **Senators Jacobs and Hooper**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 16, 1999

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study a Statewide 800 Megahertz Communications System**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study a Statewide 800 Megahertz
4 Communications System; providing for the membership, duties, and staffing of
5 the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to certain persons by a certain
6 date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task
7 Force to Study a Statewide 800 Megahertz Communications System.

8 BY adding to
9 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
10 Section 18-317
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has been investigating and studying the
15 concept of an 800 megahertz communications system since the early 1980s; and

16 WHEREAS, Consultants have been hired in the past to research this issue and
17 all have recommended that the State implement a statewide 800 megahertz wireless
18 communications system; and

19 WHEREAS, This system would provide State and local government agencies
20 with access to an efficient and reliable multipurpose statewide wireless voice, data,
21 fax, and imaging communications system; and

1 WHEREAS, A statewide system would provide capacity for all State
2 departments and agencies and could be shared with local and federal governments;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Most jurisdictions have daily emergencies that need response from
5 neighboring counties; and

6 WHEREAS, A statewide communications system would facilitate
7 communications between emergency operations centers and result in a much safer
8 atmosphere for firefighters, police officers, and citizens of the State; and

9 WHEREAS, There could be cost sharing with State, local, and federal
10 governments; and

11 WHEREAS, The Department of Budget and Management prepared a favorable
12 report in 1998 on the feasibility of such a system; now, therefore,

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

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

16 18-317.

17 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY A STATEWIDE 800 MEGAHERTZ
18 COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

19 (B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

20 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTED BY THE
21 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

22 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY THE
23 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

24 (3) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARYLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE AND
25 RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS;

26 (4) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARYLAND POLICE CHIEFS;

27 (5) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
28 CENTERS;

29 (6) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE;

30 (7) TWO PAID FIREFIGHTERS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE DESIGN,
31 CONSTRUCTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF AN 800 MEGAHERTZ COMMUNICATIONS
32 SYSTEM;

33 (8) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE; ~~AND~~

1 (9) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE,
2 SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE; AND

3 (10) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING
4 ORGANIZATIONS:

5 (I) THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE;

6 (II) THE STEAMSHIP TRADE ASSOCIATION;

7 (III) THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES; AND

8 (IV) THE MID-CHESAPEAKE MARINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE
9 GROUP.

10 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE NONLEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE
11 TASK FORCE.

12 (D) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
13 DELEGATES SHALL JOINTLY SELECT THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE FROM THE
14 APPOINTED MEMBERS.

15 ~~(D)~~ (E) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY AND EVALUATE:

16 (1) FUNDING ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF A
17 STATEWIDE 800 MEGAHERTZ COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM;

18 (2) PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING AND MAINTAINING A STATEWIDE 800
19 MEGAHERTZ COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM;

20 (3) PHYSICAL INVENTORY OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
21 INFRASTRUCTURE; AND

22 (4) RESOURCE SHARING AGREEMENTS WITH EXISTING
23 COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE OWNERS.

24 ~~(E)~~ (F) MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE WITHOUT
25 COMPENSATION EXCEPT THAT THE MEMBERS MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES
26 UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE
27 BUDGET.

28 ~~(F)~~ (G) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE
29 STAFF SUPPORT TO THE TASK FORCE.

30 ~~(G)~~ (H) THE TASK FORCE SHALL PROVIDE A FINAL REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS
31 AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246
32 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY DECEMBER
33 31, 1999.

34 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
35 July 1, 1999. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,

1 2000, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.