

BY: Environmental Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 56

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike "Utility Companies" and substitute "Service Commission"; in the same line, before "Rates" insert "Telephone"; strike beginning with "Intra-County" in line 2 down through "Calls" in line 3 and substitute "Competition"; in line 4, after "of" insert "declaring certain findings of the General Assembly;"; strike beginning with "use" in line 4 down through "term;" in line 21 and substitute "requiring the Public Service Commission to undertake certain efforts to increase competition in certain telephone services for residential customers; requiring the Public Service Commission to report to certain committees of the General Assembly by certain dates on its progress in enhancing competition in certain telephone services in the State;".

On pages 1 through 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 23 on page 1 through line 29 on page 3, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 22, insert:

"SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the General Assembly:

(1) finds that:

(i) competition in local exchange telephone services, which the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted to foster, has languished in this State, particularly in residential local exchange services;

(ii) additional efforts by the Public Service Commission are needed to foster competition in local exchange telephone services, and in intrastate interLATA telephone

(Over)

services, for residential customers in the State; and

(iii) waiver or elimination of the LATA boundaries in the State by the Federal Communications Commission would assist the Public Service Commission in developing a more competitive local exchange telephone services market for residential customers in the State and in creating a reasonable alternative rate setting mechanism; and

(2) directs the Public Service Commission to undertake efforts to increase competition in the local exchange service and intrastate interLATA service markets for residential telephone customers in the State, consistent with the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, including commencing State proceedings to investigate and implement regulatory changes to enhance competition, and petitioning the Federal Communications Commission to implement regulatory changes to enhance competition in intrastate interLATA services in the State, which may include changes in or elimination of LATAs in the State as a barrier to competition in local exchange service.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, after line 29, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Public Service Commission shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Environmental Matters Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on or before January 1, 2002 and January 1, 2003 on the progress of the Commission in enhancing competition in the local exchange service and intrastate interLATA services for residential customers in the State, including the status of State and federal proceedings on the subject of enhancing competition.”.