

BY: Commerce and Government Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 986

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike "and Franchot" and substitute ", Franchot, D'Amato, Benson, DeCarlo, Mandel, McIntosh, Riley, Swain, and Kagan".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in lines 2, 3, and 7, in each instance, before "Internet" insert "Broadband"; in line 3, strike the second "the" and substitute "a"; in line 4, strike "duties, responsibilities" and substitute "chairman, purpose"; in lines 5 and 6, in each instance, strike "a"; in line 5, strike "report" and substitute "reports"; in line 6, strike "date" and substitute "dates; expressing the intent of the General Assembly regarding the appointment and meetings of the Study Commission"; in line 7, after "to" insert "the Study Commission on"; and in the same line, strike "transport services" and substitute "Transport Service"; and strike in their entirety lines 8 through 13, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, in line 15, strike "the Laws of Maryland read as follows"; and after line 15, insert:

(a) There is a Study Commission on Broadband Internet Transport Service.

(b) The Study Commission shall consist of the following 21 members:

(1) Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) Two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) The Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the Secretary's

(Over)

designee;

(4) The Chairman of the Public Service Commission, or the Chairman's designee;

(5) The Chairman of the State Information Technology Board; and

(6) Fourteen members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

(i) Two representatives of companies that provide access to broadband Internet transport service in the State using cable television lines;

(ii) One representative of a company that provides access to broadband Internet transport service in the State using telephone lines;

(iii) One representative of the local incumbent telephone exchange company in the State;

(iv) Two representatives of companies that provide access to broadband Internet transport service in the State using neither cable television lines nor telephone lines;

(v) Two representatives of companies that conduct business as Internet service providers;

(vi) One representative of a company that provides hardware technology that enables content to be transmitted over the Internet;

(vii) One representative of a company headquartered in the State that primarily conducts business using the Internet;

(viii) One representative of municipal government, based on recommendations from the Maryland Municipal League;

(ix) One representative of county government, based on recommendations from the Maryland Association of Counties;

(x) One representative of the Office of the People's Counsel in the Public Service Commission; and

(xi) One consumer member.

(c) The Chairman of the State Information Technology Board shall serve as chairman of the Study Commission.

(d) The Office of the Governor shall provide staff support to the Study Commission.

(e) A member of the Study Commission:

(1) May not receive compensation; but

(2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State Budget.

(f) The purpose of the Study Commission is to study and make recommendations on:

(1) The various means to provide access to broadband Internet transport service in the State, including the current and projected status of the availability of the various means in the State;

(2) Available and needed infrastructure for providing access to broadband Internet transport service in the State;

(3) Terms and conditions under which the various means to provide broadband Internet transport service and Internet content are or should be available in the State;

(4) Issues relating to the promotion of the various means to provide access to broadband Internet transport service in the State;

(5) Current and possible means of monitoring or regulating the development and operation of broadband Internet transport service in the State;

(6) The status of cable franchise agreements granted by local governments in the State; and

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(7) The status of any federal or state laws, regulations, court decisions, or other policies addressing the issue of access to broadband Internet transport service.

(g) (1) On or before December 31, 2000, the Study Commission shall submit a preliminary report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly including the findings of the Study Commission, the recommendations of the Study Commission, and any proposed legislation for the 2001 Session, regulation, or other policy that the Study Commission considers appropriate.

(2) On or before December 31, 2001, the Study Commission shall submit a final report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly including the findings of the Study Commission, the recommendations of the Study Commission, and any proposed legislation, regulation, or other policy that the Study Commission considers appropriate.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Governor complete the appointment of members to the Study Commission by July 1, 2000, and that the Study Commission start meeting as soon as practicable after the appointments are completed.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 7 months and, at the end of December 31, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.

On pages 1 through 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 16 on page 1 through line 12 on page 3, inclusive.