
By: **Delegate Howard**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2001

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Cellular Telephone Consumer Protection**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Cellular Telephone Consumer
4 Protection; providing for the membership, staffing, and purposes of the Task
5 Force; requiring the Task Force to investigate and report on certain matters to
6 the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the
7 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Cellular
8 Telephone Consumer Protection.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 MARYLAND, That:

11 (a) There is a Task Force on Cellular Telephone Consumer Protection.

12 (b) The Task Force consists of the following 13 members:

13 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, selected by the President of
14 the Senate;

15 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, selected by the Speaker of
16 the House;

17 (3) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

18 (4) the chairperson of the Public Service Commission, or the
19 chairperson's designee;

20 (5) the People's Counsel, or the People's Counsel's designee; and

21 (6) the following members appointed by the Governor:

22 (i) two representatives of companies that provide cellular
23 telephone service, personal communication service, or similar commercial mobile
24 radio service in the State;

1 (ii) one citizen of the State with knowledge and experience in the
2 regulation of telephone or cellular telephone services, who is not employed by a
3 company that provides those services; and

4 (iii) three consumer members.

5 (c) The Governor shall appoint a chairperson of the Task Force from among its
6 members.

7 (d) The Task Force shall investigate and make recommendations on consumer
8 issues related to cellular telephone service, personal communication service, and
9 similar commercial mobile radio service in the State, including:

10 (1) termination and reinstatements of service requested by consumers;

11 (2) charging and billing practices of service providers;

12 (3) complaint and dispute resolution procedures, including access to
13 representatives of service providers by consumers; and

14 (4) other matters that come to the attention of the Task Force concerning
15 consumer interaction with providers of cellular telephone service, personal
16 communication service, and similar commercial mobile radio services.

17 (e) The Office of the Attorney General shall provide staff support to the Task
18 Force.

19 (f) On or before January 9, 2002, the Task Force shall report its findings and
20 recommendations, including proposed legislation, if any, to the Governor and, subject
21 to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 July 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
24 2002, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
25 abrogated and of no further force and effect.