
By: **Delegates Boutin, Giannetti, Barkley, Bartlett, Billings, Cane, Carlson, D'Amato, D. Davis, Elliott, Frush, Gordon, Hammen, Hubbard, Hubers, Klausmeier, La Vay, Leopold, Menes, Moe, Mohorovic, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Owings, Pitkin, Redmer, Sher, Snodgrass, Stull, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Moving Overhead Utility Lines Underground**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Moving Overhead Utility
4 Lines Underground; providing for the composition, duties, and staff of the Task
5 Force; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General
6 Assembly by a certain date; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally
7 relating to the Task Force to Study Moving Overhead Utility Lines
8 Underground.

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

11 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Moving Overhead Utility Lines
12 Underground. The Task Force shall be composed of:

13 (1) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
14 the House;

15 (2) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
16 the Senate;

17 (3) the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation, or the
18 Secretary's designee;

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

21 (5) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the
22 Director's designee;

23 (6) the Special Secretary of the Office of Smart Growth, or the Special
24 Secretary's designee; and

- 1 (7) the following 12 members, appointed by the Governor:
- 2 (i) two members representing the electricity transmission
3 industry;
- 4 (ii) two members representing the telephone industry;
- 5 (iii) two members representing the cable television industry;
- 6 (iv) two members representing the natural gas distribution
7 industry;
- 8 (v) two members representing the Maryland Municipal League;
9 and
- 10 (vi) two members representing the Maryland Association of
11 Counties.

12 (b) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

13 (c) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on
14 the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
15 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

16 (d) The Task Force shall:

17 (1) study and make recommendations to identify the best possible means
18 of facilitating and reducing the costs of placing overhead utility lines underground;
19 and

20 (2) report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, and in
21 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly
22 on or before December 31, 2003.

23 (e) The Maryland Office of Smart Growth, with assistance from the Public
24 Service Commission, shall provide oversight and coordination of the Task Force.

25 (f) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide the staff support for
26 the Task Force.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 January 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
29 December 31, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
30 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.