

HOUSE BILL 1089

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2002 Regular Session
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CF SB 653

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 18, 2002

CHAPTER _____

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; providing for
7 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study
8 Moving Overhead Utility Lines 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;

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

3 (5) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the
4 Director's designee;

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

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

8 ~~(7)~~ (8) the following ~~42~~ members, appointed by the Governor:

9 (i) ~~two members representing the electricity transmission industry~~
10 one member representing an electric transmission company;

11 (ii) one member representing an electric distribution company;

12 ~~(ii)~~ (iii) two members representing the telephone industry;

13 ~~(iii)~~ (iv) two members representing the cable television industry;

14 ~~(iv)~~ (v) two members representing the natural gas distribution
15 industry;

16 ~~(v)~~ (vi) two members representing the Maryland Municipal
17 League; ~~and~~

18 ~~(vi)~~ (vii) two members representing the Maryland Association of
19 Counties; and

20 (viii) two members representing the Utility Contractors Association.

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

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

25 (d) The Task Force shall:

26 (1) study and make recommendations to identify the best possible means
27 of facilitating and reducing the costs of placing overhead utility lines underground;
28 ~~and~~

29 (2) study and make recommendations to identify a process by which
30 public service companies and municipal corporations can coordinate construction,
31 long-term maintenance, and repair projects located on or near roadways in the
32 municipal corporations, including moving overhead utility lines underground; and

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

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

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

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