

SENATE BILL 653

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2002 Regular Session  
2lr2629  
CF 2lr2752

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By: Senators Roesser, Forehand, Frosh, and Ruben Ruben, Colburn, Dorman, Dyson, Green, Kelley, Middleton, Pinsky, Van Hollen, Astle, DeGrange, Exum, Hafer, Hooper, and Teitelbaum

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002  
Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 20, 2002

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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;

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

1 (5) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the  
2 Director's designee;

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

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

6 (8) the following ~~12~~ members, appointed by the Governor:

7 (i) ~~two members representing the electricity transmission industry~~  
8 three members representing electric distribution companies;

9 (ii) two members representing the telephone industry;

10 (iii) two members representing the cable television industry;

11 (iv) two members representing the natural gas distribution  
12 industry;

13 (v) two members representing the Maryland Municipal League;  
14 and

15 (vi) two members representing the Maryland Association of  
16 Counties; and

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

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

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

22 (d) The Task Force shall:

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

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

29 ~~(2)~~ (3) report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, and  
30 in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General  
31 Assembly on or before December 31, 2003.

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

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

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