

SENATE BILL 677

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C8
HB 662/01 - W&M

2002 Regular Session
2r1351

By: **Senator Roesser**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Tax Credits for Costs of Providing Telework Benefits to**
3 **Employees**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task force to Study Tax Credits for costs of
5 Providing Telework Benefits to Employees; requiring the Task Force to study
6 the feasibility and potential impacts of allowing a credit against the State
7 income tax for costs incurred by employers that provide teleworker benefits to
8 employees; establishing the membership of the Task Force; providing certain
9 reimbursement for travel expenses; providing certain staff support for the Task
10 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
11 compensation; requiring the Governor to designate a chairman of the Task
12 Force; requiring the Task Force to issue a certain report; providing for a delayed
13 effective date; and generally relating to the purpose of establishment of a Task
14 Force to Study Tax Credits for Costs of Providing Telework Benefits to
15 Employees.

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, Workers are an organization's greatest asset and offering a
18 telework option can help recruit and retain valued employees; and

19 WHEREAS, When employees work in more convenient locations, lost time from
20 sick days, late arrivals, and stressful commutes is translated into productive work
21 periods; and

22 WHEREAS, Technology is changing the workplace both in terms of where work
23 is done and how it is done; and

24 WHEREAS, Maryland's communities can benefit from teleworking, which gives
25 workers more time to spend at home with their families; and

26 WHEREAS, Having fewer commuters on the roads, especially at peak hours,
27 lowers the cost of road maintenance and the demand for building new highways and
28 improves the quality of life for area residents; and

1 WHEREAS, Fewer or shorter commutes mean less air pollution and the
2 conservation of gasoline and other energy sources; and

3 WHEREAS, By lowering the wasted economic cost of traffic congestion and
4 making the region a more attractive place to live and do business, teleworking can
5 improve the region's overall economic health; now, therefore,

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
7 MARYLAND, That:

8 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Tax Credits for costs of Providing Telework
9 Benefits to Employees.

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

11 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
12 the Senate;

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

15 (3) the Secretary of Business and Economic Development, or the
16 Secretary's designee;

17 (4) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

18 (5) the Comptroller, or the Comptroller's designee; and

19 (6) the following 3 members, appointed by the Governor:

20 (i) one representative of the telecommunications industry;

21 (ii) one representative of the nonprofit sector; and

22 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce.

23 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

24 (d) The Department of Business and Economic Development shall provide
25 staff for the Task Force.

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

29 (f) The Task Force shall:

30 (1) study the feasibility and potential impacts of allowing a credit
31 against the State income tax for costs incurred by employers that provide teleworker
32 benefits to employees; and

1 (2) make recommendations regarding modifications to State law to
2 facilitate teleworking.

3 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
4 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
5 Assembly on or before October 1, 2003.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 January 1, 2003.