

SENATE BILL 496

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C8
SB 677/02 - B&T

2003 Regular Session
3lr0971
CF 3lr1748

By: **Senators Garagiola, Brochin, Giannetti, and Ruben**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Teleworking - Pilot Program and Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Budget and Management to establish a
4 statewide Telework and Workforce Development Center Pilot Program;
5 requiring the Secretary to adopt policies to administer the Pilot Program;
6 requiring the Secretary to report in a certain manner on the effect of the Pilot
7 Program; providing for the purposes of the Telework and Workforce
8 Development Centers; establishing a Task Force to Study Telework; requiring
9 the Task Force to recommend methods to educate private sector employers on
10 the advantages of telework and recommend certain legislative changes;
11 establishing the membership of the Task Force; providing certain
12 reimbursement for travel expenses; providing certain staff support for the Task
13 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain
14 compensation; requiring the Governor, in consultation with the President of the
15 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, to designate a chairman of
16 the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to issue a certain report; defining
17 certain terms; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
18 establishing a Telework and Workforce Development Center Pilot Program and
19 a Task Force to Study Telework.

20 BY adding to
21 Article - State Personnel and Pensions
22 Section 2-801 through 2-804, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 8.
23 Telework and Workforce Development Center Pilot Program"
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

26 Preamble

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

29 WHEREAS, When employees work in more convenient locations, lost time from
30 sick days, late arrivals, and stressful commutes are replaced by productive work
31 periods; and

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

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

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

8 WHEREAS, Fewer or shorter commutes mean less air pollution and the
9 conservation of gasoline and other energy resources; and

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

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - State Personnel and Pensions**

16 **SUBTITLE 8. TELEWORK AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER PILOT**
17 **PROGRAM.**

18 2-801.

19 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
20 INDICATED.

21 (B) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE TELEWORK AND WORKFORCE
22 DEVELOPMENT CENTER PILOT PROGRAM.

23 (C) "TELECOMMUTING" MEANS USING TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
24 TO WORK AT A LOCATION OTHER THAN A TRADITIONAL OFFICE SETTING.

25 (D) "CENTERS" MEANS THE TELEWORK AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
26 CENTERS.

27 2-802.

28 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE TELEWORK AND
29 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER PILOT PROGRAM.

30 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO:

31 (1) OPEN AND OPERATE HIGHLY TECHNICAL TELECOMMUTING AND
32 TRAINING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE THAT MAY BE USED BY BOTH THE
33 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS;

1 (2) ENABLE EMPLOYEES TO USE THE CENTERS TO TELECOMMUTE AND
2 RECEIVE TRAINING TO TELECOMMUTE FROM HOME; AND

3 (3) ENABLE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES TO UTILIZE THE CENTERS
4 FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES.

5 2-803.

6 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT GUIDELINES AND POLICIES TO ESTABLISH
7 AND CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

8 (B) THESE GUIDELINES SHALL PROVIDE FOR:

9 (1) TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES AND POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES IN
10 COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY;

11 (2) TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR WELFARE RECIPIENTS;

12 (3) INFORMATIONAL SEMINARS FOR BUSINESSES TO PROMOTE
13 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN REVITALIZATION AREAS; AND

14 (4) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED.

15 2-804.

16 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH LOCAL
17 GOVERNMENTS TO OPERATE THE TELEWORK AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
18 CENTERS AND MAY CONTRACT WITH PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRACTORS FOR
19 ASSISTANCE IN RUNNING THE CENTERS.

20 (B) THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
21 ENVIRONMENT, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC
22 DEVELOPMENT SHALL PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE
23 IN IMPLEMENTING AND OPERATING THE CENTERS.

24 (C) THE CENTERS SHALL BE FUNDED THROUGH FEDERAL GRANTS, FEES
25 FROM BUSINESS OWNERS WHO USE THE CENTERS, LOCAL FUNDING, AND AS
26 PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

28 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Telework.

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

30 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
31 of the Senate;

32 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
33 the House;

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

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

4 (5) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's
5 designee; and

6 (6) the following three members, appointed by the Governor:

7 (i) one representative of the telecommunications industry;

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

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

10 (c) In consultation with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
11 House of Delegates, the Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.

12 (d) The Department of Budget and Management shall provide staff for the
13 Task Force.

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

17 (f) The Task Force shall:

18 (1) study the effectiveness of the efforts of the State of Maryland and
19 other states to promote telework for state and local government employees;

20 (2) recommend specific telework goals for State agencies and
21 departments in Maryland with respect to telework;

22 (3) undertake a cost-benefit analysis for implementing the
23 recommended telework goals by giving consideration to:

24 (i) cost savings to the State;

25 (ii) environmental impacts;

26 (iii) impact on traffic congestion; and

27 (iv) employee productivity;

28 (4) study the effectiveness of the efforts of the State of Maryland and
29 other states to promote telework for private sector employers and employees;

30 (5) study the feasibility and potential impacts of implementing telework
31 incentives in the State, including an examination of telework incentives utilized in
32 other states;

1 (6) recommend methods to educate employers on the advantages of
2 telework; and

3 (7) recommend modifications to State law to promote telework.

4 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
5 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
6 Assembly on or before October 1, 2004.

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1,
8 2004, the Secretary of Budget and Management shall submit a report to the Senate
9 Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee
10 concerning the Pilot Program.

11 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
12 effect October 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end
13 of September 30, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
14 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.