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By: **Delegate O'Donnell**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Use of Technology to Cover State Governmental**  
3 **Matters**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Use of Technology to  
5 Cover State Governmental Matters; exploring the feasibility of covering State  
6 governmental matters using existing and future technology; addressing issues of  
7 funding, governance, technology, programming, transmission, and duration of  
8 coverage; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Use of  
9 Technology to Cover State Governmental Matters.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, Technology has evolved and continues to evolve that facilitates the  
12 ability of citizens to access critical information; and

13 WHEREAS, Democracy depends on the ability of citizens to have access to,  
14 participate in, and be aware of the affairs and proceedings of their government; and

15 WHEREAS, Maryland has been a leader in using technology for the purpose of  
16 citizen awareness; now, therefore,

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
18 MARYLAND, That:

19 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Use of Technology to Cover State  
20 Governmental Matters.

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

22 (1) two members from the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
23 President of the Senate;

24 (2) two members from the House of Delegates of Maryland, appointed by  
25 the Speaker of the House; and

26 (3) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

- 1 (i) three representatives from the cable industry;
- 2 (ii) two representatives from the broadcast industry;
- 3 (iii) two representatives from Maryland Public Television;
- 4 (iv) one representative from the Maryland Association of Counties  
5 (MACO);
- 6 (v) one representative from the Maryland Municipal League  
7 (MML);
- 8 (vi) two local cable administrators;
- 9 (vii) one representative from the Maryland Department of General  
10 Services (DGS); and
- 11 (viii) one representative from the Maryland Department of Budget  
12 and Management (DBM).
- 13 (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.
- 14 (d) The Department of Budget and Management and the Department of  
15 Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- 16 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 17 (1) may not receive compensation; but
- 18 (2) is entitled to reimbursement of expenses under the Standard State  
19 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 20 (f) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding:
- 21 (1) the feasibility of covering State government matters using existing  
22 and future technology;
- 23 (2) funding for such an endeavor;
- 24 (3) governance;
- 25 (4) technology;
- 26 (5) programming and content;
- 27 (6) distribution;
- 28 (7) fairness; and
- 29 (8) duration of coverage.

1 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
2 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General  
3 Assembly on or before December 31, 2005.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
5 July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,  
6 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
7 abrogated and of no further force and effect.