
By: **Senator Giannetti**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2005

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Study Electronic Filing of Documents in Court**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission to Study Electronic Filing of
4 Documents in Court; establishing the membership of the Commission; providing
5 for the chair of the Commission; providing staff support for the Commission;
6 prohibiting a member of the Commission from receiving certain compensation;
7 authorizing a member of the Commission to be reimbursed for certain expenses;
8 providing for the duties of the Commission; requiring the Commission to issue a
9 report by a certain date; providing for the termination of the Commission; and
10 generally relating to the Commission to Study Electronic Filing of Documents in
11 Court.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) There is a Commission to Study Electronic Filing of Documents in Court.

15 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

16 (1) three judges of the Court of Appeals, appointed by the Chief Judge of
17 the Court of Appeals;

18 (2) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
19 of the Senate;

20 (3) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
21 of the House; and

22 (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

23 (i) one representative of the Maryland State Bar Association;

24 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association;

25 and

26 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Defense Council, Inc.

1 (c) The Chief Judge shall designate the chair of the Commission.

2 (d) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the
3 Commission.

4 (e) A member of the Commission:

5 (1) may not receive compensation; but

6 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
7 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

8 (f) The Commission shall:

9 (1) assess and evaluate the current pilot programs for electronic filing of
10 pleadings and papers approved by the Court of Appeals under Maryland Rule 16-307;

11 (2) study other states' statutes and court rules on the electronic filing of
12 court documents and any model electronic filing rules;

13 (3) recommend a Statewide plan so that all State courts accept electronic
14 filing of documents by January 1, 2008; and

15 (4) recommend legislation and changes to the Maryland Rules to
16 implement the recommendations of the Commission.

17 (g) The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
18 Governor, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, and, in accordance with § 2-1246
19 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December 31,
20 2005.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 June 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 8 months and, at the end of
23 January 31, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
24 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.