

SENATE BILL 717

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CF 7lr2617

By: **Senator Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2017

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Internet, Wireless, and Cellular Service on the Eastern Shore**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Internet, Wireless, and Cellular Service
4 on the Eastern Shore; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task
5 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,
6 but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
7 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task
8 Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
9 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and
10 generally relating to the Task Force on Internet, Wireless, and Cellular Service on
11 the Eastern Shore.

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

13 That:

14 (a) There is a Task Force on Internet, Wireless, and Cellular Service on the
15 Eastern Shore.

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

17 (1) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's designee;

18 (2) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;

19 (3) a representative of the Maryland Association of Counties, appointed by
20 the Maryland Association of Counties;

21 (4) a representative of the Maryland Municipal League, appointed by the
22 Maryland Municipal League; and

23 (5) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) one representative of Verizon;
- 2 (ii) one representative of Comcast Corporation;
- 3 (iii) one representative of First Responder Network Authority; and
- 4 (iv) one representative of the Consumer Electronics Association.
- 5 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.
- 6 (d) The Department of Information Technology shall provide staff for the Task
7 Force.
- 8 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 9 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but
- 10 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
11 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 12 (f) (1) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding how
13 Eastern Shore counties can work together to obtain federal assistance to improve Internet,
14 wireless, and cellular services and accessibility on the Eastern Shore.
- 15 (2) The study required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include
16 an examination of the various types of cellular service that are available, and an
17 assessment of which type of cellular service would be most effective on the Eastern Shore.
- 18 (g) On or before December 31, 2017, the Task Force shall report its findings and
19 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
20 Government Article, the General Assembly.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
22 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2018, with
23 no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no
24 further force and effect.