

HB0551/193729/1

BY: Ways and Means Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 551

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, before “**Broadband**” insert “Office of Statewide Broadband – Study of”; in the same line, strike “**Incentive Act of 2023**” and substitute “Incentives”; strike beginning with “allowing” in line 3 down through “deploying” in line 6 and substitute “requiring the Office of Statewide Broadband within the Department of Housing and Community Development to conduct a certain study and report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date on certain incentives to encourage the expansion of”; in line 6, after “broadband” insert “infrastructure in the State”; in line 7, strike “tax” and substitute “a study on broadband expansion”; and in the same line, strike “for broadband deployment”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 8 on page 1 through line 4 on page 2, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 6, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows” and substitute “the Office of Statewide Broadband within the Department of Housing and Community Development shall”; and after line 6, insert:

“(1) study and make recommendations regarding:

(i) how the State can incentivize broadband service providers to expand broadband infrastructure to communities that are unserved or underserved, including through either regulatory or financial incentives;

(ii) how the State can ensure that federal broadband infrastructure grants are deployed to best serve the needs of Marylanders; and

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(iii) how other states have encouraged private investment in broadband networks and how this State might implement similar measures; and

(2) on or before July 1, 2024, submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.”.

On pages 2 and 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 7 on page 2 through line 11 on page 3, inclusive.

On page 3, in line 12, strike “4.” and substitute “2.”; and strike beginning with “Section” in line 13 down through “effect.” in line 15.