

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

Approved May 8, 1997.

CHAPTER 463

(House Bill 641)

AN ACT concerning

State Government – Toll Free Telephone Access

FOR the purpose of requiring each unit of State government to install and maintain a toll free telephone system to allow a person from anywhere in the State to communicate with employees of the unit on official State business during the unit's regular business hours; requiring each unit to include its toll free telephone numbers in any directory that lists information about the unit; requiring each unit to publicize its toll free telephone numbers on its official stationery and certain other of its publications; and generally relating to the maintenance and publication of toll free telephone numbers by units of State government.

BY adding to

Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments
Section 18-206
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments

18-206.

(A) EACH UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT SHALL INSTALL AND MAINTAIN A TELEPHONE SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS A PERSON FROM ANYWHERE IN THE STATE TO COMMUNICATE WITH EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIT BY TOLL FREE TELEPHONE DURING THE UNIT'S REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS TO CONDUCT OFFICIAL STATE BUSINESS.

(B) (1) EACH UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT SHALL PRINT EACH OF ITS TOLL FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ON THE UNIT'S OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING STATIONERY, FAX COVER SHEETS, BUSINESS CARDS, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS THAT ARE DISTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLIC.

(2) EACH UNIT SHALL INCLUDE EACH OF ITS TOLL FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS IN ANY DIRECTORY THAT LISTS INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be construed to require that a unit of State government dispose of or otherwise destroy or