

## CHAPTER 320

## (House Bill 697)

AN ACT concerning

**Telecommunication and Computer Network Access - Underserved Areas  
Task Force on Broadband Communications Deployment in Underserved  
Rural Areas**

FOR the purpose of ~~altering certain provisions relating to a certain State telecommunication and computer network under the Department of Budget and Management; providing for access to a certain telecommunication and computer network by certain persons; providing for the construction of certain network facilities in areas where existing commercial access is lacking; providing for certain points of presence in certain areas in a certain manner; requiring the Department to consult and coordinate with certain agencies and entities for certain purposes; declaring the intent of the General Assembly; requiring establishing a Task Force on Broadband Communications Deployment in Underserved Rural Areas; providing for the membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive reimbursement for certain expenses; providing for a panel of advisors; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before certain dates; encouraging the Department of Business and Economic Development and the Department of Budget and Management to undertake certain actions by certain dates and to report to the General Assembly on certain actions by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to telecommunication and computer networking and underserved areas~~ the Task Force on Broadband Communications Deployment in Underserved Rural Areas.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article State Finance and Procurement~~

~~Section 3-702 and 3-705~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)~~

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

(a) There is a Task Force on Broadband Communications Deployment in Underserved Rural Areas.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following 20 members:

(1) three members of the Maryland House of Delegates, one each from Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore, appointed by the Speaker of the House;