

(5) shall oversee the implementation of the Task Force's recommendations made under item (4) of this subsection, and as the Task Force may determine, offer any recommendations pertaining to:

(i) legislation for possible introduction in the 2004 or 2005 session of the General Assembly to implement the recommendations of the Task Force;

(ii) budget provisions and amendments for inclusion in the State budgets for fiscal years 2005, 2006, and beyond; and

(iii) programmatic changes in State procurement or other areas that might be implemented by regulation.

(i) (1) In accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Task Force shall report to the Governor and to the President of the Senate of Maryland, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Economic Matters Committee, and the chairmen of the General Assembly's rural delegations, as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) The Task Force shall issue:

(i) on or before December 1, 2003, a preliminary report and draft statewide rural development plan focusing on public and private broadband communications access;

(ii) on or before January 15, 2004, an interim report and recommendations for a statewide broadband communications plan focusing on private sector access;

(iii) on or before December 1, 2004, a progress report on the implementation of the plans for public and private broadband communications access, together with any follow-up recommendations; and

(iv) on or before June 30, 2005, a final report of the Task Force.

(j) The Maryland Technology Development Corporation shall provide staff support to the Task Force, with the assistance of the Forum for Rural Maryland, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Business and Economic Development, and other appropriate State, regional, and local agencies.

Article — State Finance and Procurement

~~§ 702.~~

~~(a) The Department shall:~~

~~(1) coordinate the development, procurement, management and operation of telecommunication equipment, systems, and services by State government, BOTH BY DIRECT ACQUISITION AND BY USE OF OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INFRASTRUCTURE;~~

~~(2) acquire and manage common user telecommunication equipment, systems, [or] AND services and [charge] PROVIDE A STANDARD INTERFACE FOR~~