

~~(H) ON REQUEST OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, POINTS OF PRESENCE IN GROWTH AREAS, AS DESIGNATED IN THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL MASTER PLAN, THAT ARE ADJACENT TO THE BACKBONE, and~~

~~[(iii)] (IV) facilities, auxiliary equipment, and services required to support the network in a reliable and secure manner.~~

~~(C) IN PLANNING THE INSTALLATION AND EXPANSION OF THE NETWORK, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER STATE UNITS, COUNTIES, MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UTILITIES IN ORDER TO:~~

~~(1) IDENTIFY AND CONSOLIDATE DEMAND FOR BROADBAND SERVICES IN THE VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE STATE;~~

~~(2) IDENTIFY UNUSED CAPACITY IN EXISTING FACILITIES; AND~~

~~(3) PLAN THE OPTIMAL LOCATION OF POINTS OF PRESENCE IN EACH LATA IN THE STATE.~~

~~[(c)] (D) The network shall be accessible through direct connection and through local intra LATA telecommunications to State and local governments and public and private educational institutions in the State.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

~~(a) On or before July 1, 2004, the~~ The Department of Business and Economic Development, in assisting the Task Force on Broadband Communications Deployment in Underserved Rural Areas, ~~shall~~ is strongly encouraged to identify existing and significant potential demand for access to high-speed telecommunication and data transmission services facilities in underserved rural areas of the State, in consultation with local government officials, existing businesses, and existing regional and local consortia and other groups involved with high-technology economic development in those areas;

~~(b) On or before July 1, 2004, the~~ The Department of Budget and Management, in assisting the Task Force on Broadband Communications Deployment in Underserved Rural Areas, ~~shall~~ is strongly encouraged to explore expansion of high-speed telecommunication and data transmission capacity, including fiber-optic cable and competing technologies, into underserved rural areas that have existing and significant potential demand for the capacity afforded by fiber-optic cable and competing technologies associated with State and local economic development, by expansion of the State backbone and network under § 3-705 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, through other Net.Work.Maryland or successor initiatives, or through other public-private cooperation with commercial providers of high-speed telecommunication and data transmission services, and ~~shall also~~ is also strongly encouraged to explore alternative models for delivering these services in underserved rural areas;

~~(c) On or before January 1, 2005, the~~ The Department of Business and Economic Development, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management and in coordination with recommendations of the Task Force on