

CHAPTER 598

(House Bill 853)

AN ACT concerning

Telecommunications Access of Maryland – Dual Party Telephone Relay Program

FOR the purpose of transferring the Telecommunications Access of Maryland program from the Department of Human Resources to the Department of General Services; altering the name of the Telecommunications for Disabled Individuals Board; requiring the Board to advise the Department of General Services with regard to certain matters; providing for the removal of a Board member under certain circumstances; requiring the commencement of a dual party telephone relay program by a certain date; requiring the Governor's Office for Handicapped Individuals to certify certain program participants; specifying certain characteristics of the dual party telephone relay program; establishing a Universal Service Trust Fund from a surcharge to be used to underwrite the expenses associated with maintaining and operating a dual telephone party party telephone relay program; providing that the cost of the dual party telephone relay program shall be funded by certain subscriber fees; requiring the Public Service Commission to determine the fees necessary to fund the program; requiring the Secretary of General Services to administer the Universal Service Trust Fund; requiring the Commission to include certain costs in the base rates of certain telephone companies in the State by a certain date; generally relating to the funding and operation of the dual party telephone relay program; requiring the Public Service Commission to complete a certain evaluation and submit a certain report to the General Assembly by a certain date concerning dual party telephone relay service; providing for the continuation of certain permits, licenses, applications, rules, regulations, standards, guidelines, orders, directives, forms, plans, memberships, special funds, appropriations, grants, contracts, properties, investigations, proceedings, rights to sue and be sued, and certain other duties, obligations, and responsibilities under certain circumstances; redefining certain terms; clarifying language; and generally relating to the Telecommunications Access of Maryland program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments

Section 6-501, 6-502, 6-503, ~~6-504~~, 6-505, ~~and 6-506~~ 6-506, and 6-507 to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 5. Telecommunications Access of Maryland”; and 6-601, 6-602, 6-603, and 6-604

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1990 Replacement Volume)

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