

(1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

**Article - State Government**

8-504.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "AGENCY" MEANS ANY DEPARTMENT, ~~AGENCY~~, OFFICE, OR OTHER UNIT ~~OF STATE GOVERNMENT~~ OF GOVERNMENT THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY STATE LAW.

(3) "DIGITAL SIGNATURE" MEANS AN ELECTRONIC IDENTIFIER, CREATED BY A COMPUTER, THAT:

(I) IS INTENDED BY THE ~~PARTY USING IT~~ AUTHORIZED SIGNER TO HAVE THE SAME FORCE AND EFFECT AS THE USE OF A MANUAL SIGNATURE;

(II) IS UNIQUE TO THE AUTHORIZED SIGNER;

(III) IS CAPABLE OF VERIFICATION;

(IV) IS UNDER THE SOLE CONTROL OF THE AUTHORIZED SIGNER;

(V) IS LINKED TO DATA IN SUCH A MANNER THAT IF THE DATA ARE CHANGED, THE SIGNATURE IS INVALIDATED; AND

(VI) CONFORMS TO REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(4) "GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY" MEANS ANY DEPARTMENT, AGENCY, OR UNIT OF FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

~~(4)~~ (5) "PILOT" MEANS THE DIGITAL SIGNATURE PILOT PROGRAM.

(B) (1) THERE IS A DIGITAL SIGNATURE PILOT PROGRAM IN STATE GOVERNMENT.

(2) THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT:

(I) THE SECRETARY OF STATE;

(II) THE STATE ARCHIVES;

(III) THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES;

(IV) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT; AND

(V) ANY OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNOR.