

have a capacity for high-speed computer networking either in existence now, or in development; networking these entities allows the sort of research and development opportunities needed to attract and develop high-tech commercial ventures; and

WHEREAS, Expanding high-speed networking Statewide also helps to integrate our educational and economic needs for the next century, when we will need to provide new skilled labor in information technology and related fields; and

WHEREAS, Based on experience with the earlier development of the telephone and of the Internet, the true long-term benefits and applications made possible by high-speed computer networking, beyond real-time video conferencing for interactive medicine, distance learning, and governmental information sharing, are likely to be in areas and applications undreamed of today; now, therefore,

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

**Article - State Finance and Procurement**

3-706.

(A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE ON HIGH-SPEED NETWORK DEVELOPMENT.

(B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING 28 MEMBERS:

(1) THE GOVERNOR, OR THE GOVERNOR'S DESIGNEE;

(2) THE SECRETARY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(3) THE SECRETARY OF BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(4) THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(5) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(6) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, OR THE CHAIRMAN'S DESIGNEE; AND

(7) THE FOLLOWING 22 MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

(I) TWO TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDERS, REPRESENTING LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE AND INTEREXCHANGE SERVICE PROVIDERS;

(II) TWO CABLE SERVICE PROVIDERS;

(III) THREE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS;

(IV) SIX MEMBERS REPRESENTING HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES;