

(IV) PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS IN DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORKING;

(V) FOSTERING AFFINITIES AND COMBINATIONS OF NETWORK USERS TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT;

(VI) PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR ENHANCING COMPUTING RESOURCES AT THE STATE'S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING; AND

(VII) ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIFORM, ECONOMICALLY REASONABLE COST STRUCTURES FOR ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORKING ACROSS THE STATE;

(5) CONDUCT HEARINGS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL UNITS, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND THE PUBLIC ON HIGH-SPEED COMPUTER NETWORK DEVELOPMENT ISSUES STUDIED BY THE TASK FORCE;

(6) GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TASK FORCE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, DETERMINE WHETHER:

(I) BUDGET PROVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED FOR INCLUSION IN THE STATE BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2000, 2001, AND FOLLOWING, AND, IF SO, DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THOSE BUDGETS;

(II) LEGISLATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE 1999 OR 2000 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE AND, IF SO, DRAFT A MODEL FOR THE LEGISLATION; AND

(III) PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES IN STATE PROCUREMENT OR OTHER AREAS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY REGULATION AND, IF SO, DRAFT A MODEL FOR THE REGULATION; AND

(7) CONSIDER ANY OTHER PERTINENT ISSUES.

(I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE TASK FORCE.

(J) (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS WITH OTHER STATE UNITS INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE'S COMPUTING RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BOARD.

(2) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND UNITS SHALL COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE TASK FORCE TO ASSIST IN ITS WORK.

(K) AS NEEDED TO COMPLETE ITS WORK, THE TASK FORCE MAY HIRE CONSULTANTS OR EXPERTS TO ASSIST IT IN COMPLETING ITS WORK.

(L) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

(1) AN INITIAL REPORT ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1999; AND