

(A) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE DO NOT APPLY TO A TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM OR SERVICE THAT IS OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, OR A UNIT OF THE LEGISLATIVE OR JUDICIAL BRANCH.

(B) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE DO NOT PREEMPT THE AUTHORITY OF THE MARYLAND PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMISSION TO OWN, OPERATE, OR MANAGE TELECOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT, SYSTEMS, OR SERVICES.

3A-403.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE MARYLAND PUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH STATEWIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICIES AND STANDARDS AND THE STATEWIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MASTER PLAN.

3A-404.

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT:

(1) IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE TO FOSTER TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORKING AMONG STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, THEIR AGENCIES, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE;

(2) THERE IS A NEED TO IMPROVE ACCESS, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS, TO EFFICIENT TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORK CONNECTIONS;

(3) IMPROVEMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORKING FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS PROMOTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE USE AND DEVELOPMENT, AND EFFICIENCY IN STATE AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION;

(4) RATES FOR THE INTRASTATE INTER-LATA TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS NEEDED FOR EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER RESOURCES ARE PROHIBITIVE FOR MANY SMALLER GOVERNMENTS, AGENCIES, AND INSTITUTIONS; AND