

(5) THE USE OF IMPROVED STATE TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORKING UNDER THIS SECTION IS INTENDED NOT TO COMPETE WITH COMMERCIAL ACCESS TO ADVANCED NETWORK TECHNOLOGY, BUT RATHER TO FOSTER FUNDAMENTAL EFFICIENCIES IN GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.

(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORK IN THE STATE.

(2) THE NETWORK SHALL CONSIST OF:

(I) ONE OR MORE CONNECTION FACILITIES FOR TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER CONNECTION IN EACH LOCAL ACCESS TRANSPORT AREA (LATA) IN THE STATE; AND

(II) FACILITIES, AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT, AND SERVICES REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE NETWORK IN A RELIABLE AND SECURE MANNER.

(C) THE NETWORK SHALL BE ACCESSIBLE THROUGH DIRECT CONNECTION AND THROUGH LOCAL INTRA-LATA TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE.

SUBTITLE 5. TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS OF MARYLAND.

3A-501.

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

(B) "BOARD" MEANS THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY BOARD FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY.

(C) "DUAL PARTY TELEPHONE RELAY PROGRAM" MEANS A SERVICE THAT PROVIDES FULL AND SIMULTANEOUS COMMUNICATION BETWEEN A PERSON OR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY THAT PREVENTS THEM FROM USING A STANDARD TELEPHONE AND A PERSON OR PERSONS WITHOUT THAT DISABILITY USING CONVENTIONAL TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT OR OTHER TECHNOLOGY OR EQUIPMENT, WHEREBY THE DISABLED PERSON OR PERSONS HAVE THEIR MESSAGE RELAYED THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY PARTY USING SPECIALIZED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.