

HOUSE BILL 1234

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By: **Delegates Arora, Barkley, Carr, Cullison, Gilchrist, Ivey, Kaiser, A. Kelly, Lee, Luedtke, A. Miller, Reznik, S. Robinson, and Zucker**
Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2011
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on the Selective Moving of Overhead Utility Lines Underground**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on the Selective Moving of Overhead
4 Utility Lines Underground; providing for the composition, chair, staff, and
5 duties of the Task Force; specifying that a member of the Task Force may not
6 receive compensation, but may receive certain reimbursement; requiring the
7 Task Force, on or before certain dates, to submit certain preliminary and final
8 reports to the Governor and the General Assembly; providing for the
9 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on the
10 Selective Moving of Overhead Utility Lines Underground.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That:

13 (a) There is a Task Force on the Selective Moving of Overhead Utility Lines
14 Underground.

15 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

16 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
17 of the Senate;

18 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
19 the House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

21 (4) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, or the Chairman's
22 designee;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the
2 Director's designee;

3 (6) the Special Secretary of Smart Growth, or the Special Secretary's
4 designee;

5 (7) the People's Counsel, or a designee of the People's Counsel;

6 (8) the State Superintendent of Schools or the Superintendent's
7 designee; and

8 (9) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

9 (i) three members representing investor-owned electric
10 companies;

11 (ii) two members representing the telephone industry;

12 (iii) two members representing the cable television industry;

13 (iv) two members representing the natural gas distribution
14 industry;

15 (v) two members representing the Maryland Municipal League;

16 (vi) two members representing the Maryland Association of
17 Counties; and

18 (vii) two members representing the Maryland Underground
19 Facilities Damage Prevention Authority.

20 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

21 (d) The Public Service Commission shall provide staff for the Task Force.

22 (e) A member of the Task Force:

23 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

24 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
25 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

26 (f) The Task Force shall:

27 (1) study and identify opportunities for the selective placement of
28 overhead utility lines underground:

29 (i) in areas where there are service reliability problems; and

1 (ii) when major or minor infrastructure improvements are
2 taking place involving one or more of the utilities, transportation systems, or road
3 repairs in order to achieve cost savings through joint excavation and coordination of
4 postconstruction roadway paving; and

5 (2) recommend a proposed plan of action for the selective placement of
6 overhead utility lines underground.

7 (g) The Task Force shall submit, on or before December 31, 2011, a
8 preliminary report and, on or before June 1, 2012, a final report of its findings and
9 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
10 Government Article, the General Assembly.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 July 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30,
13 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
14 abrogated and of no further force and effect.