

MARYLAND COMMUNICATIONS TAX REFORM COMMISSION

Senator Nancy J. King
Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard
Chairwomen

Charge of the Communications Tax Reform Commission

The Commission's charge is to assess the "feasibility and fiscal implications for the State and local governments of a modernized, competitively neutral communications tax and fee system that eliminates disparate treatment of similar communications service providers" and the "efficacy of tax and other incentives to encourage investment in broadband networks and emerging technologies." The Commission is explicitly directed to include an examination of the following taxes and fees as they relate to consumers and providers of communications services:

- State and local property taxes;
- the public service company franchise tax;
- sales and use taxes;
- corporate income tax;
- local communications taxes and fees; and
- any other communications tax or fee that the Commission determines is relevant.

Additionally the Commission shall:

- receive data from staff regarding the taxes and fees collected by State and local governments from communications services companies during fiscal year 2012 (as reported by the government entities) as well as taxes and fees remitted by communications companies (as reported by the companies);
- submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations by December 31, 2012; and
- submit a final report of its findings and recommendations by June 30, 2013.

2012 Interim

- October – overview of current tax structure.
- November – overview of franchise and PEG fees, report on other states, overview Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.
- December – detail investment incentives, survey results, restructuring discussion, discussion of draft interim report.

2013 Interim

- Compile and report recommendations by June 30, 2013.