

HB 1957 -- Governmental Fiber Optic Network

Sponsor: Salva

This bill requires legislative bodies, judicial bodies, administrative departments, public universities, and all other governmental bodies to begin using the fiber optic network currently operated by the Department of Transportation for all telecommunications services by January 1, 2009.

After January 1, 2010, the Office of Administration will promulgate rules for the organization of all data, voice, and video services into a single, Internet-based network and will determine the reimbursement to the department to cover the operation and maintenance of the network. The department must use a single, governmental body as a pilot program and must expand its implementation to include all governmental bodies. The network must include real-time data applications, voice over IP, video and audio conferencing, consolidated IP call centers, and Internet and intranet capabilities.

Governmental bodies must submit a proposal for implementing the fiber optic network for all their telecommunications services to the Office of Administration by June 1, 2009. Starting on January 1, 2010, the Office of Administration must file an annual report with the Governor and the General Assembly detailing the process of implementation and the cost savings of switching to a single network.