

HOUSE BILL 1371

P5

8lr2267

By: **Delegates Bronrott, Barve, Carr, Feldman, Frick, Kullen, Lee, Levi, Manno, Mizeur, Rice, and Waldstreicher**
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2008
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Assembly – Internet Webcasting of Committee Meetings**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the General Assembly to provide, on the Internet, an
4 audio and video webcast of each meeting of a committee or other public body of
5 the Legislative Branch; specifying that the requirement does not apply to a
6 public body that is meeting in an authorized closed session; requiring that the
7 webcasts be available both as contemporaneous transmissions and as certain
8 archived files; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the webcasting
9 of legislative meetings.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – State Government
12 Section 2–1804
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – State Government**

18 **2–1804.**

19 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
20 MEANINGS INDICATED.

21 (2) “COMMITTEE” MEANS:

22 (I) A STANDING COMMITTEE;

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



1 (II) A SUBCOMMITTEE OF A STANDING COMMITTEE;

2 (III) A STATUTORY COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE
3 BRANCH; OR

4 (IV) ANY OTHER PUBLIC BODY OF THE LEGISLATIVE
5 BRANCH THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

6 (3) "WEBCAST" MEANS AN AUDIO AND VIDEO FILE DISTRIBUTED
7 OVER THE INTERNET USING STREAMING MEDIA TECHNOLOGY.

8 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
9 SUBSECTION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL PROVIDE A PUBLICLY
10 ACCESSIBLE WEBCAST OF EACH MEETING OF EACH COMMITTEE.

11 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY NOT PROVIDE A PUBLICLY
12 ACCESSIBLE WEBCAST OF A COMMITTEE THAT IS MEETING IN A CLOSED
13 SESSION AUTHORIZED UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

14 (C) A WEBCAST REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE AVAILABLE
15 IN BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING FORMATS:

16 (1) A TRANSMISSION THAT IS CONTEMPORANEOUS WITH THE
17 CONDUCT OF THE MEETING; AND

18 (2) AN ARCHIVED FILE THAT SHALL BE PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE ON
19 THE INTERNET FOR AT LEAST 4 YEARS.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2008.