

(1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article Tax Property~~

~~Section 1-101(u)~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article Tax General

Section 11-101(k)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1988 Volume and 1996 Supplement)

(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The telecommunications industry in Maryland and around the country is undergoing rapid change as telecommunications companies attempt to position themselves for increasing competition; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly believes that competition is good for the State and that it will lead to more diverse, more efficient, and lower priced services for consumers; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that disparities in Maryland's telecommunications tax policy may restrict competition; however, inhibiting factors and important uncertainties make comprehensive tax reform difficult to accomplish at this time; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly believes that the limited tax reforms embodied in this Act are the first of many steps toward comprehensive tax reform and will enable our local telephone service providers to compete more effectively; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly that the reforms embodied in this Act not result in increases in customer telephone bills, and consistent with that position, the Public Service Commission is required to reduce the rates local telephone service providers charge to reflect the 2% public service company franchise tax included in those rates that will be disclosed as a separate line item on a customer's bill; now, therefore,

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

Article - Tax - General

8-401.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b)(1) "Gross receipts" means total operating revenue.

(2) "Gross receipts" includes: