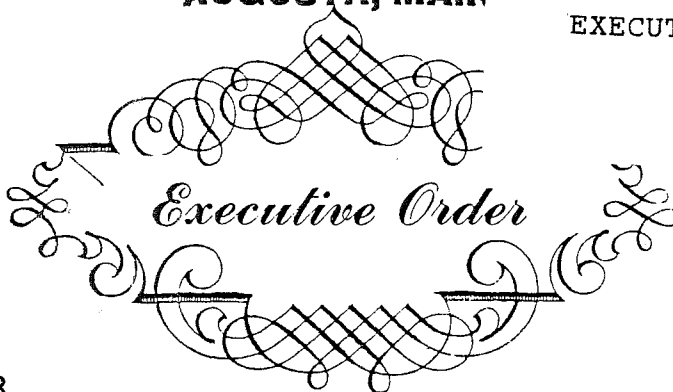


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 8FY 83/84

DATE March 14, 1984

TASK FORCE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

WHEREAS, the pace of technological change has greatly increased the range of available and forthcoming telecommunication services in Maine; and

WHEREAS, the business institutions that design, deliver, and oversee telecommunications services have changed dramatically in recent years, and are certain to change more in the future; and

WHEREAS, these changes will have increasing impact on the lives of virtually all Maine citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of Maine that State government assure an orderly process of change and the availability of adequate telecommunication services at reasonable cost,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, do hereby establish a Task Force on Telecommunications Policy.

MEMBERSHIP: The Task Force will consist of the following:

Director of the State Planning Office (Chair)
Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of
Maine;
Director of the State Development Office;
Public Advocate;
Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Food &
Rural Resources; and the
Senate and House Chairmen of the Joint Standing
Committee on Public Utilities or their designees,
and a minority member selected by them.

SCOPE OF WORK: The Task Force will address the following questions, without limitation; and hold public meetings and conduct studies as necessary to develop findings and recommendations respecting each:

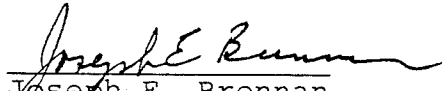
1. How may basic telephone costs best be structured to ensure universal voice service in Maine?
2. What specific economic development opportunities do advance telecommunication services present to Maine, in expansion of existing businesses and attraction of new businesses? How

may State development activities be directed to realize these opportunities?

3. Are Maine businesses constrained by existing or anticipated levels of telecommunication services?
4. Does private market demand provide sufficient stimulus for the modernization of Maine's telecommunication network? Is it in the public interest for State government to establish incentives for investment in advanced telecommunication facilities?
5. How do current rate regulation and corporate capital investment policies affect modernization of Maine's telecommunication services?
6. Will by-passing the public telephone network by large system users have significant effects on rates for remaining users?
7. Will current investment in parallel telecommunication systems impede or enhance the establishment of the most efficient and advanced telecommunication network in Maine?
8. To what extent need technologies and businesses not now regulated by the State (cable TV, microwave radio transmission, satellite communications systems, and paging services) be brought within the purview of the Public Utilities Commission?
9. How will the availability of advanced telecommunication services affect the demand for public facilities such as schools, roads, hospitals, and government buildings?
10. How may State government best coordinate the efforts of those public agencies involved in telecommunications policy?
11. In what manner and to what effect should State government involve itself in federal regulatory and legislative activity dealing with telecommunications policy?

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP: In pursuing its investigation, the Task Force will consult with interested individuals and affected parties, both public and private, and incorporate their concerns in its deliberations. In particular, the Chairman will establish a technical advisory group to the Task Force, comprising representatives of those interests whose knowledge, experience, and perspectives are necessary to a full and adequate expression of a sound telecommunications policy for Maine.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The Task Force will report to me not later than January 1, 1985, with a proposed statement of State Telecommunications Policy, and any draft legislation needed for its implementation.


Joseph E. Brennan
GOVERNOR