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For Immediate Release

Maryland to Add New Area Code in 2012

(Baltimore, MD)—The Maryland Public Service Commission (the Commission) has learned that an additional area code will be implemented across several areas of the state, beginning on March 24, 2012.

Because the remaining numbers in the 410 and 443 area codes are expected to be exhausted by early 2012, a new area code, 667, will be assigned to all or parts of the following counties in Maryland beginning in March: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester. Callers will continue to dial the area code before the number, and existing 410 and 443 telephone numbers will not be affected by the new area code.

This has happened before. In 2001 the Commission formalized the activation process for new area codes, which requires that planning for implementation begin 10 months before the numbers in the existing codes are exhausted. The previous implementation of a new area code occurred in 1997, with the addition of area codes 240 and 443. The same process will be used this time.

In the months to come, the Commission will provide updates on the new area code implementation and will post relevant information online at www.psc.state.md.us.

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