

**MARYLAND WANTS FIRST STATE TECHNOLOGY COURT:**

The nation's first technology court would handle electronic business issues in the State of Maryland, under a legislative proposal backed by the state's lieutenant governor and House speaker. It also has the endorsement of the state's Governor. The proposal would establish a Technology and Business Division within the State's Circuit court System, which would provide a legal forum for all business technology issues, including tax cases.

Actually, the effort is really one to bring jobs and economic development to the state. The idea is to provide legal protection to high technology companies. It is expected that those companies will, in turn, establish a presence in the state to take advantage of the legal protection to be established. The proposal is similar to one instituted by the State of Delaware in the 1980s. That one created a tax haven for corporations, which helped propel Delaware into the corporate "Capital" of the United States.

The proposed legislation was introduced during the first week of this year's Maryland State Legislature. Under it, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals would designate a Division of Technology and Business similar to the format used for the Maryland Court System's division of Family Law, which was designated as a separate division within the Maryland court system. Judges from the technology court would be taken from the existing pool and preside in Montgomery County, Baltimore and Western Maryland. The new court would give legislators the backing they need to write laws dealing with new technologies that are stricter than current Federal standards. Said Maryland

House Speaker Casper Taylor about the Court, "The thinking is to carve out a niche that we could market across the nation to make Maryland a very interesting place to come for legal protection. Delaware ate our lunch by carving out a niche in corporate charters."

In the State of Delaware, a company can charter itself as a Limited Liability Corporation if the company maintains at least one member/manager and has one local registered agency and registered office in the state. In return, the company pays one Value Added Tax, sales taxes or income taxes. To become chartered in the state the company pays fees of approximately \$1,500 initially to cover the cost of registering the corporation. Then, the company simply files an annual Limited Liability corporation tax for the registered agent and registered office. This tax totals approximately 4500 per year. In the same way that Delaware caters to corporations by allowing for the easy establishment of Limited Liability Corporations for a modest annual fee, the Technology court would respond to the unique needs of businesses that face threats from destructive computer viruses, computer hackers and software pirates.

Speaker Taylor went on to say, "Delaware established a niche market for itself a few years ago in the area of general business law, and is now the leader in business incorporations in the nation. By providing a designated court structure for technology issues we will attract technology corporations to headquarter themselves here in Maryland."

The technology court proposal is part of a larger initiative being pushed by the

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Governor of Maryland, Parris Glendening; State President, Mike Miller; and House Speaker, Casper R. Taylor. The larger initiative, entitled "eMaryland: Technology Agenda 200,": protects and expands Maryland businesses by establishing a framework for the digital economy, encouraging growth and preventing fraud. The initiative aims to institute strong consumer protections, privacy guarantees and dramatically improves customer service by making Maryland a national leader in delivery of government services over the Internet. Some of the proposals within the initiative have been proposed in other states, but Maryland is the first to put together a comprehensive package of legislation that tries to deal with the legal and economic concerns of the information age. Without a doubt, the technology court would be the first such initiative in the nation.

The legislation is backed by the Governor, the House Speakers and the Senate President, which means it should make its way through the legislative process with little controversy. If you would like mor information on the technology court or the larger "eMaryland technology initiative," contact House Speaker Casper Taylor's office at **410-841-3800**.

**E-Commerce Proposals in Maryland State Legislature--**

◆ eMaryland: Becoming the Number For-hire trucks carried about 42 percent of the total value and 31 percent of the tonnage while private trucks carried 29 percent of the total value and 37 percent of the tonnage. More than half of the tonnage shipped traveled under 50 miles. ("For-hire" trucks are those not owned or operated by

- ◆ One E-Commerce State in the Nation
- ◆ Expanding Government Services On-Line to make all of their services available to citizens of Maryland
- ◆ Guaranteeing the right to Privacy for Citizens
- ◆ Protecting Citizens form Computer Viruses
- ◆ Adopting Uniform Electronic Transactions Act to provide a procedural framework to incorporate e-commerce into everyday business activities
- ◆ Adopting the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act which would set forth a legal environment for the use and licensing of software programs
- ◆ Helping Start-up Companies Grow and Thrive by creating a research and development company for science and engineering projects
- ◆ Regulating Unsolicited Email by creating legislation would prohibit the practice
- ◆ Prohibiting Unauthorized Access to Computers

**1977 NATION'S BUSINESSES SHIPPED \$7 TRILLION:**

Businesses in mining, manufacturing, wholesale and selected retail industries shipped nearly 11 billion tons of goods worth \$6.9 trillion in 1997, according to a series of reports released by the Census Bureau.

the company initiating the shipment; "private" trucks are those owned or operated by the company initiating or receiving the shipment.)

The findings come from the [/econ/www/cfsmain2.html](http://econ/www/cfsmain2.html)

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Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) reports, a part of the 1997 Economic Census. The Census Bureau conducted this survey in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Policy-makers use the results to assess the nation's transportation needs.

The 52 CFS reports released can be accessed on the Internet. Individual reports for each state and a U.S. summary show data on the movement of goods by value, weight, average miles per shipment, mode of transportation and type of commodity shipped. A separate report contains the first-ever CFS data on hazardous material shipments by hazard class, mode of transportation, states of origin and other characteristics.

Additional data, including information for metropolitan areas, will be released on the Internet and on CD-ROM in upcoming weeks.

Data for the 1997 CFS were reported on a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) basis, but future surveys will use the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which provides updated industry classifications for Transportation and Warehousing and 19 other economic sectors.

Estimates from the 1997 Commodity Flow Survey are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. Sources of nonsampling error include errors of response, nonreporting and coverage. Measures of sampling variability, presented as relative standard errors, are shown in the report tables.

**WEST AND SOUTH**

**FASTEST-GROWING REGIONS:**

The Census Bureau issued--  
[/population/www/estimates/statepop.html](http://population/www/estimates/statepop.html)  
state population estimates showing Texas topping 20 million and Florida surpassing 15 million, while the West and the South set the pace in population growth for the year ending July 1, 1999.

While Texas (20.0 million) remains second to California (33.1 million), the estimated growth of Florida's population (to 15.1 million) in recent decades has been substantial. As recently as 1950, Florida had fewer than 3 million people.

Of the four states that now are estimated to have more than 15 million people, only New York (18.2 million) is outside the South and West.

For the 14th consecutive year Nevada was the nation's fastest-growing state. Between July 1, 1998, and July 1, 1999, Nevada's estimated population increased by 3.8 percent -- far above the national rate of increase of 0.9 percent. Since 1990, according to Census Bureau estimates, the "silver state" has grown by a stunning 51 percent. The other fastest-growing states last year were Arizona (up 2.4 percent), Colorado (2.2 percent), Georgia (2.0 percent) and Idaho (1.7 percent).

The West remained the fastest-growing region in the country, with a population increase of 1.5 percent between 1998 and 1999. However, Montana (0.4 percent), New Mexico (0.4 percent) and Alaska (0.7 percent) all grew at rates below the national average and Wyoming (-0.1 percent) and Hawaii (-0.4 percent) actually lost population.

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The South's growth rate of 1.2 percent made it second in growth among regions. Georgia, with a growth rate of 2.0 percent, was again the region's fastest-growing state, followed by Texas at 1.7 percent and North Carolina and Florida, both at 1.4 percent. The District of Columbia (-0.5 percent), and West Virginia (-0.3 percent) both lost population. The district is considered a state equivalent for statistical purposes.

The District of Columbia's population appears to be stabilizing. While the estimated population fell last year, the rate of decline was less than the 2 percent or more of recent years.

Population growth in the Midwest increased slightly to 0.5 percent last year. Minnesota's population was the fastest growing in the region (17th in the nation), increasing by 1.0 percent. No other state in the region grew faster than the national average, and North Dakota (-0.6 percent) lost population (-4,000).

The Northeast continued to be the nation's slowest-growing region, with a population growth rate of 0.3 percent last year, but this was an increase from the rate of 0.2 percent in the previous year. New Hampshire was again the region's fastest-growing state, increasing 1.3 percent. It was the only state in the region to grow faster than the national average. Pennsylvania's loss of 8,000 was the largest numerical loss of any state.

Overall, the nation's population increased from 270.2 million to 272.7 million between July 1, 1998, and July 1, 1999.

The estimates include demographic

components of population change for individual states: natural increase (births minus deaths), net domestic migration (in-migration from other states minus out-migration to other states) and net international migration. Some highlights:

□ Between 1998 and 1999, the highest rates of net domestic migration (as a percentage of 1998 population) were found in Nevada (2.3 percent), Arizona (1.3 percent), Colorado (1.1 percent), Georgia (1.0 percent) and New Hampshire (0.8 percent).

□ The highest percent of net domestic out-migration was in Hawaii (-1.7 percent), the District of Columbia (-1.4 percent), North Dakota (-1.1 percent), New York (-0.9 percent) and New Mexico (-0.7 percent).

□ The highest rates of international migration were in California (0.8 percent), New York (0.6 percent), the District of Columbia (0.6 percent), Florida and Nevada (0.5 percent) each.

□ States with the largest rates of natural increase were: Utah (1.6 percent), Alaska (1.2 percent), Texas (1.0 percent), California (0.9 percent) and Hawaii (0.8 percent).

**“OTHER” SERVICES BUSINESSES ARE BIG BUSINESS:**

Receipts and revenues of U.S. businesses providing:

</prod/www/abs/economic.html>">"other services"

business, personal and non-profit -- added up to more than \$265 billion in 1997, the CensusBureau reported.

Examples of "other services" range from

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automotive repair shops, diet centers and coin-operated laundries, to dating services, funeral homes and human rights organizations.

In 1997, the United States had more than 520,000 separate business locations that provided such services. They employed about 3.3 million people. States with the highest receipts and revenues from "other services" businesses were California with \$32.4 billion and New York with \$26.4 billion.

Reports were released on the Internet that further detail these businesses, including data for 65 specific kinds of businesses, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and 395 metropolitan areas. The reports are part of the series titled 1997 Economic Census, Geographic Area Series, Other Services (Except Public Administration).

Highlights from the "other services" reports include:

Repair and maintenance--

☐ Repair and maintenance was the largest "other services" subsector, with \$105 billion in receipts. General automotive repair businesses, at \$26 billion, accounted for almost one-quarter of this amount and employed 290,634 people at 77,751 locations.

☐ The commercial and industrial equipment

☐ Business, professional and similar membership organizations raised more than \$36 billion in revenues from dues and other sources and employed 311,491 workers at 48,375 locations. New York led all states

repair and maintenance industry, a new industry classification under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), generated \$18 billion in receipts nationally and employed 166,962 people at 20,290 locations; Texas with nearly \$2 billion in receipts, led all states.

☐ The electronic and precision-equipment repair and maintenance industry took in \$15 billion in receipts and employed 137,227 workers at 17,634 locations; California, with \$2.3 billion, led the nation.

Personal and laundry services--

☐ Receipts for personal and laundry service industries totaled \$58 billion, led by the dry-cleaning and laundry industry group with \$18 billion. Dry-cleaning and laundry services employed 395,408 workers at 44,782 locations.

☐ The funeral homes and cemeteries and crematories industries generated \$13 billion in receipts, employing 164,823 people at 23,015 locations.

Grant-making and civic, professional and related not-for-profit organizations--

☐ Grant-making and giving services generated \$49 billion in revenue, primarily from contributions, gifts and investment income. These organizations employed 104,807 people at 11,906 locations.

with nearly \$6 billion in revenues, followed by the District of Columbia (a state equivalent for statistical purposes), with \$3.8 billion.

☐ Social advocacy organizations, another new industry classification under NAICS,

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attracted more than \$7.5 billion in revenues and employed 85,041 workers at 10,120 locations. The District of Columbia led all states in revenues in this industry, with nearly \$1.2 billion, while California was tops in number of employees with 9,268. Social advocacy organizations include human rights, and environmental, conservation and wildlife organizations.

The reports present data separately for firms subject to and exempt from federal income taxes. They provide national, state and metropolitan-area data for both taxable and tax-exempt firms. For taxable firms, the reports also provide county and place data.

The 1997 Economic Census marks the premiere of NAICS, a new business classification system. It replaces the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system begun 60 years ago. The Other Services (Except Public Administration) sector is a new industry group in NAICS. Religious and political organizations and labor unions, although part of this sector, are not covered in the economic census.

**1997 NATION'S UTILITIES \$400 BILLION IN REVENUES:**

The nation's utilities reported revenues of \$412 billion and employed nearly 703,000 workers at more than 15,000 locations in 1997, according to economic census reports released by the Census Bureau.

Texas, with revenues of \$74 billion, and California, with revenues of \$27 billion, led all states.

Nationwide, the electric power industry generated \$269 billion in revenues, while the natural gas industry accounted for \$137 billion.

The 52 reports -- one for each state, the District of Columbia and the United States -- comprise the series titled:

</epcd/www/econ97.html>">1997 Economic Census Geographic Area Series, Utilities Released on the Internet, they present summary data by industry for the United States, states and metropolitan areas.

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