

**Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay  
(GABTR) Report  
Calendar Year 2025**

Human Services Article, Section 7-803(d)

Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay

January 22, 2026



# Telecommunications Access of Maryland

Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Carol A. Beatty, Secretary



Alfred Sonnenstrahl, Chair,  
Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay

David Bahar, Director, Telecommunications Access of Maryland

January 1, 2026

The Honorable Bill Ferguson  
President  
Senate of Maryland  
H-107, State House  
State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Speaker House of Delegates  
H-101, State House  
State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Pena-Melnyk:

In accordance with Human Services Article § 7-803(d), I am pleased to submit the Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay (GABTR) annual report for calendar year 2025.

Aligned with Governor Moore's commitment to creating an equitable and connected Maryland, GABTR continues partnering with Telecommunications Access of Maryland (TAM) staff to ensure all Marylanders have access to essential communication services, advancing infrastructure that connects residents to opportunities.

In 2025, GABTR, TAM staff, and representatives from Maryland Relay provider Hamilton held quarterly meetings to review TAM-managed programs.

The Universal Service Trust Fund (USTF) surcharge was set in July 2025 at 9-cents per account rendered for a communication service. We continue to monitor potential regulatory changes regarding Internet Protocol (IP) relay services while maintaining fiscal responsibility and service quality.

GABTR remains dedicated to working with TAM to provide exemplary services that advance Governor Moore's vision of a better-connected Maryland for all residents.

Sincerely,

*Alfred Sonnenstrahl*

Alfred Sonnenstrahl  
Chair, Governor's Advisory Board for Telecommunications Relay