

# HOUSE BILL 626

R2, E4, C9

5lr1139

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By: **Delegates Taylor, Boaf, and Phillips**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Real Estate Development and Highway Rights-of-Way – Installation of**  
3 **Broadband Micro Conduits and Microducts**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the installation of micro conduits in any utility easements  
5 and building power or telecommunication rooms during the new construction or  
6 major improvement of certain commercial and residential premises; requiring that a  
7 buried fiber optic cable installed in a highway right-of-way include conduit  
8 containing at least a certain number of microducts; requiring the Department of  
9 Transportation or a unit of local government to ensure that a broadband service  
10 provider has access to the conduit on a neutral and nondiscriminatory basis;  
11 authorizing the Department and a unit of local government to charge a broadband  
12 service provider a reasonable fee for access to the conduit; and generally relating to  
13 broadband infrastructure.

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Public Safety  
16 Section 12–207  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

19 BY adding to  
20 Article – Transportation  
21 Section 8–654.1  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Public Safety**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



12-207.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, "MULTIPLE TENANT ENVIRONMENT" MEANS COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL PREMISES THAT ARE OCCUPIED BY MULTIPLE ENTITIES.

(2) "MULTIPLE TENANT ENVIRONMENT" INCLUDES A CENTRALLY MANAGED RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT.

(B) DURING THE NEW CONSTRUCTION OR MAJOR IMPROVEMENT, INCLUDING ANY IMPROVEMENT OF ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, OF A MULTIPLE TENANT ENVIRONMENT, MICRO CONDUITS SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ANY UTILITY EASEMENTS AND BUILDING POWER OR TELECOMMUNICATION ROOMS IN ORDER TO ALLOW MULTIPLE BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE BROADBAND ACCESS TO THE MULTIPLE TENANT ENVIRONMENT.

Article – Transportation

8-654.1.

(A) A BURIED FIBER OPTIC CABLE INSTALLED IN A HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2025, SHALL INCLUDE CONDUIT CONTAINING AT LEAST SEVEN MICRODUCTS.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT OR A UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

(1) SHALL ENSURE THAT, ON REQUEST OF A BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDER, THE BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDER HAS ACCESS TO THE CONDUIT REQUIRED TO BE INSTALLED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION ON A NEUTRAL AND NONDISCRIMINATORY BASIS; AND

(2) MAY CHARGE A BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDER A REASONABLE FEE FOR THE USE OF THE CONDUIT REQUIRED TO BE INSTALLED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.