

# HOUSE BILL 341

M3, C5

5l0939  
CF SB 401

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By: **Delegate Davis**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2015

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Underground Utility Damage Prevention – Connecting Buildings to Water**  
3 **Supply Systems and Sewerage Systems – Detectable Wires**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that any new or replacement piping that is buried or installed  
5 for the purpose of connecting a building to a water supply system or a sewerage  
6 system be buried or installed with a certain wire that makes the piping detectable;  
7 requiring that the wire buried or installed with the piping meet certain product  
8 criteria and certain installation criteria and run from certain locations along the  
9 piping and water supply system or sewerage system; providing for the scope and  
10 application of this Act; and generally relating to underground utility damage  
11 prevention through the use of detectable wires to connect buildings to water supply  
12 systems or sewerage systems.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Environment

15 Section 9–223.1

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2014 Replacement Volume)

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Public Utilities

20 Section 12–129 and 24–107

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Environment**

4 **9–223.1.**

5 ANY NEW OR REPLACEMENT PIPING THAT IS BURIED OR INSTALLED FOR THE  
6 PURPOSE OF CONNECTING A BUILDING TO A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR A  
7 SEWERAGE SYSTEM SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 12–129 OF THE  
8 PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE.

9 **Article – Public Utilities**

10 **12–129.**

11 (A) ~~ANY~~ SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, ANY NEW OR  
12 REPLACEMENT PIPING THAT IS BURIED OR INSTALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
13 CONNECTING A BUILDING TO A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR A SEWERAGE SYSTEM  
14 SHALL BE BURIED OR INSTALLED WITH A WIRE THAT MAKES THE PIPING  
15 DETECTABLE.

16 (B) THE WIRE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL:

17 (1) BE AN INSULATED COPPER TRACER WIRE THAT IS SUITABLE FOR  
18 DIRECT BURIAL AND HAS AN AMERICAN WIRE GAUGE (AWG) OF AT LEAST 10, OR AN  
19 EQUIVALENT PRODUCT;

20 (2) BE INSTALLED:

21 (I) IN THE SAME TRENCH AS THE PIPING THAT CONNECTS THE  
22 BUILDING TO THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM;

23 (II) WITHIN 12 INCHES OF THE PIPING THAT CONNECTS THE  
24 BUILDING TO THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM; AND

25 (III) WITH AT LEAST ONE END OF THE WIRE TERMINATING ABOVE  
26 GRADE IN A LOCATION THAT IS ACCESSIBLE AND RESISTANT TO PHYSICAL DAMAGE,  
27 SUCH AS IN A CLEANOUT OR NEXT TO AN EXTERNAL WALL OF THE BUILDING; AND

28 (3) RUN FROM WITHIN 5 FEET OF AN EXTERNAL WALL OF THE  
29 BUILDING TO:

30 (I) THE POINT AT WHICH THE PIPING INTERSECTS WITH THE  
31 WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM; AND

1 (II) THE POINT AT WHICH THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM DISPOSES OF  
2 OR PROCESSES THE SEWAGE.

3 (C) THE REQUIREMENT OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION WITH REGARD  
4 TO REPLACEMENT PIPING CONNECTING A BUILDING TO A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM  
5 OR A SEWERAGE SYSTEM:

6 (1) APPLIES ONLY TO A COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF THE PIPING;  
7 AND

8 (2) DOES NOT APPLY TO A REPAIR OR A PARTIAL REPLACEMENT OF  
9 THE PIPING.

10 24-107.

11 ANY NEW OR REPLACEMENT PIPING THAT IS BURIED OR INSTALLED FOR THE  
12 PURPOSE OF CONNECTING A BUILDING TO A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR A  
13 SEWERAGE SYSTEM SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 12-129 OF THIS  
14 ARTICLE.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to  
16 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or  
17 application to any new or replacement piping that is buried or installed for the purpose of  
18 connecting a building to a water supply system or a sewerage system before the effective  
19 date of this Act.

20 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2015.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.