

HOUSE BILL 453

C5

5lr0977

By: **Delegates Tarlau, Carr, Luedtke, Pena–Melnyk, Platt, S. Robinson, and
A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2015

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utilities – Telephone Service – Battery for Backup Power**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a telephone company to provide a certain battery that
4 provides backup power for basic telephone service on a certain network to a customer
5 free of charge; requiring a telephone company to provide a certain replacement
6 battery to a customer free of charge under certain circumstances; defining a certain
7 term; and generally relating to the provision of telephone service.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Public Utilities

10 Section 8–207

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Public Utilities**

16 **8–207.**

17 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “BATTERY BACKUP UNIT” MEANS A**
18 **BATTERY–OPERATED UNIT THAT:**

19 **(1) PROVIDES BACKUP POWER FOR BASIC TELEPHONE SERVICE; AND**

20 **(2) OPERATES ON AN OPTICAL–FIBER COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) (1) A TELEPHONE COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE AN ACTIVE BATTERY**
2 **FOR A BATTERY BACKUP UNIT TO A CUSTOMER FREE OF CHARGE.**

3 **(2) WHEN A BATTERY IN A BATTERY BACKUP UNIT IS NO LONGER**
4 **ACTIVE, A TELEPHONE COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE A REPLACEMENT BATTERY TO A**
5 **CUSTOMER FREE OF CHARGE.**

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2015.