

# SENATE BILL 401

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5r0801  
CF HB 341

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By: **Senators Astle, Bates, Guzzone, Hershey, Jennings, and Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Underground Utility Damage Prevention – Connecting Buildings to Sewerage**  
3 **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 sewerage system be buried or installed  
6 with a certain wire that makes the piping detectable; requiring that the wire buried  
7 or installed with the piping meet certain product criteria, certain installation  
8 criteria, and run from certain locations along the piping and sewerage system;  
9 providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to underground  
10 utility damage prevention through the use of detectable wires to connect buildings  
11 to sewerage systems.

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Environment  
14 Section 9–223.1  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2014 Replacement Volume)

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Public Utilities  
19 Section 12–129 and 24–107  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Environment**

25 **9–223.1.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 ANY NEW OR REPLACEMENT PIPING THAT IS BURIED OR INSTALLED FOR THE  
2 PURPOSE OF CONNECTING A BUILDING TO A SEWERAGE SYSTEM SHALL COMPLY  
3 WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 12-129 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE.

4 Article – Public Utilities

5 12-129.

6 (A) ANY NEW OR REPLACEMENT PIPING THAT IS BURIED OR INSTALLED FOR  
7 THE PURPOSE OF CONNECTING A BUILDING TO A SEWERAGE SYSTEM SHALL BE  
8 BURIED OR INSTALLED WITH A WIRE THAT MAKES THE PIPING DETECTABLE.

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

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

13 (2) BE INSTALLED:

14 (I) IN THE SAME TRENCH AS THE PIPING THAT CONNECTS THE  
15 BUILDING TO THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM;

16 (II) WITHIN 12 INCHES OF THE PIPING THAT CONNECTS THE  
17 BUILDING TO THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM; AND

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

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

23 (I) THE POINT WHERE THE PIPING INTERSECTS WITH THE  
24 SEWERAGE SYSTEM; AND

25 (II) THE POINT WHERE THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM DISPOSES OF OR  
26 PROCESSES THE SEWAGE.

27 24-107.

1           **ANY NEW OR REPLACEMENT PIPING THAT IS BURIED OR INSTALLED FOR THE**  
2 **PURPOSE OF CONNECTING A BUILDING TO A SEWERAGE SYSTEM SHALL COMPLY**  
3 **WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 12-129 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

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

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