

HB0541/573093/1

BY: Economic Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 541
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute “Public Service Commission - Attachments to Utility Poles - Study”; strike beginning with “certain” in line 3 down through “companies” in line 16 and substitute “the Public Service Commission to convene a workgroup of interested persons to study attachments to utility poles in Maryland; requiring the workgroup to examine certain matters relating to pole attachments; requiring the Commission to report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a study by the Public Service Commission on attachments to utility poles in Maryland”; and strike in their entirety lines 17 through 21, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 7, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 22 on page 1 through line 2 on page 7, inclusive, and substitute:

“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) The Public Service Commission shall convene a workgroup of interested persons to study attachments to utility poles in Maryland.

(b) In conducting the study the workgroup shall examine:

(1) whether regulation of pole attachment agreements at the State level is in the public interest;

(2) the rates currently charged by utilities for pole attachments;

(Over)

(3) whether access to poles and other utility infrastructure by third parties is just and reasonable;

(4) the types of technology currently being attached to poles, and the positioning of the technology on the poles;

(5) the prevalence of double poles in the State;

(6) the quality and effectiveness of the notice between utilities and the utilities' pole attachment customers regarding removal or modifications of facilities, rates, and the termination of pole attachment agreements;

(7) the resources necessary to effectively regulate pole attachments in the State; and

(8) any additional issues related to pole attachments in the State.

(c) On or before December 31, 2015, the Public Service Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.”.

On page 7, strike line 4 in its entirety and substitute “June 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2016, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.