

SENATE BILL 754

C5

1lr2481
CF HB 1231

By: **Senator Hayes**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2021

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission – Damaged, Obsolete, or Excessive Lines – Fines**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to notify a certain owner of a
4 utility pole about damaged, dangling, obsolete, or redundant lines or blight or public
5 nuisance caused by an excessive number of lines on a utility pole under certain
6 circumstances; requiring the owner of a utility pole to require the person that
7 controls the line or lines to investigate and repair or remove offending lines within a
8 certain period of time under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission to
9 impose a certain fine on the owner of a certain utility pole if the offending line or
10 lines are not addressed within a certain period; requiring the Commission to adopt
11 regulations to implement this section; and generally relating to damaged, dangling,
12 obsolete, or redundant lines or blight or public nuisance caused by an excessive
13 number of lines on utility poles.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Public Utilities

16 Section 5–107

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Public Utilities**

22 **5–107.**

23 **(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE OWNER OF A UTILITY**
24 **POLE IF THE COMMISSION RECEIVES NOTICE RELATED TO A UTILITY POLE OF:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 **(1) A DAMAGED OR DANGLING LINE;**
2 **(2) AN OBSOLETE OR REDUNDANT LINE; OR**
3 **(3) BLIGHT OR PUBLIC NUISANCE CAUSED BY AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER**
4 **OF LINES ON A UTILITY POLE.**

5 **(B) WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE FROM THE COMMISSION,**
6 **THE OWNER OF THE UTILITY POLE SHALL REQUIRE THE PERSON THAT CONTROLS**
7 **THE LINE OR LINES TO INVESTIGATE AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, REPAIR OR**
8 **REMOVE THE OFFENDING LINE OR LINES.**

9 **(C) IF THE OFFENDING LINE OR LINES ARE NOT REPAIRED OR REMOVED**
10 **WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE COMMISSION NOTIFIES THE OWNER OF THE UTILITY**
11 **POLE ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE LINES, THE COMMISSION SHALL IMPOSE A**
12 **FINE ON THE OWNER OF THE UTILITY POLE OF \$250 FOR EACH DAY OF**
13 **NONCOMPLIANCE.**

14 **(D) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE**
15 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2021.