

HOUSE BILL 626

R2, E4, C9

5lr1139

By: **Delegates Taylor, Boaf, and Phillips**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Real Estate Development and Highway Rights-of-Way – Installation of**
3 **Broadband Micro Conduits and Microducts**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the installation of micro conduits in any utility easements
5 and building power or telecommunication rooms during the new construction or
6 major improvement of certain commercial and residential premises; requiring that a
7 buried fiber optic cable installed in a highway right-of-way include conduit
8 containing at least a certain number of microducts; requiring the Department of
9 Transportation or a unit of local government to ensure that a broadband service
10 provider has access to the conduit on a neutral and nondiscriminatory basis;
11 authorizing the Department and a unit of local government to charge a broadband
12 service provider a reasonable fee for access to the conduit; and generally relating to
13 broadband infrastructure.

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Public Safety
16 Section 12–207
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Transportation
21 Section 8–654.1
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Public Safety**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **12-207.**

2 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “MULTIPLE TENANT ENVIRONMENT” MEANS
3 COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL PREMISES THAT ARE OCCUPIED BY MULTIPLE
4 ENTITIES.

5 (2) “MULTIPLE TENANT ENVIRONMENT” INCLUDES A CENTRALLY
6 MANAGED RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT.

7 (B) DURING THE NEW CONSTRUCTION OR MAJOR IMPROVEMENT,
8 INCLUDING ANY IMPROVEMENT OF ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, OF A MULTIPLE
9 TENANT ENVIRONMENT, MICRO CONDUITS SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ANY UTILITY
10 EASEMENTS AND BUILDING POWER OR TELECOMMUNICATION ROOMS IN ORDER TO
11 ALLOW MULTIPLE BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE BROADBAND
12 ACCESS TO THE MULTIPLE TENANT ENVIRONMENT.

13 **Article – Transportation**

14 **8-654.1.**

15 (A) A BURIED FIBER OPTIC CABLE INSTALLED IN A HIGHWAY
16 RIGHT-OF-WAY ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2025, SHALL INCLUDE CONDUIT
17 CONTAINING AT LEAST SEVEN MICRODUCTS.

18 (B) THE DEPARTMENT OR A UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

19 (1) SHALL ENSURE THAT, ON REQUEST OF A BROADBAND SERVICE
20 PROVIDER, THE BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDER HAS ACCESS TO THE CONDUIT
21 REQUIRED TO BE INSTALLED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION ON A
22 NEUTRAL AND NONDISCRIMINATORY BASIS; AND

23 (2) MAY CHARGE A BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDER A REASONABLE
24 FEE FOR THE USE OF THE CONDUIT REQUIRED TO BE INSTALLED UNDER
25 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2025.