

HOUSE BILL 1100

C2, E1

6lr3426
CF SB 782

By: **Delegate Pruski**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Telecommunications Infrastructure – Protections**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain junk dealers, scrap metal processors, and antique
4 dealers to register and provide a description including certain information of
5 purchased telecommunications equipment with a certain law enforcement official;
6 prohibiting certain junk dealers, scrap metal processors, and antique dealers from
7 purchasing telecommunications equipment other than by check mailed to the seller's
8 address; prohibiting the sale or disposal of certain telecommunications equipment
9 within a certain period; prohibiting certain individuals from destroying
10 telecommunications infrastructure in a certain manner; and generally relating to
11 telecommunications equipment and infrastructure.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Business Regulation
14 Section 17–1001(a) and (f)(2)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Article – Business Regulation
19 Section 17–1001(f)(1)(ii)8. and 9.
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

22 BY adding to
23 Article – Business Regulation
24 Section 17–1001(f)(1)(ii)9. and (m) and 17–1010.1
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

27 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – Criminal Law
2 Section 6–305.1
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Business Regulation**

8 17–1001.

9 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

10 (f) (1) “Junk” or “scrap metal” includes:

11 (ii) the following used articles, made of either ferrous or nonferrous
12 metal:

13 8. cell tower batteries; [and]

14 **9. TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT; AND**

15 **[9.] 10.** any other used articles owned by a public utility
16 including:

17 A. guardrails;

18 B. manhole covers;

19 C. metal light poles;

20 D. tree grates;

21 E. water meters; and

22 F. street signs.

23 (2) “Junk” or “scrap metal” does not include beverage cans or food cans.

24 **(M) “TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT” MEANS AN ITEM THAT AN**
25 **INDIVIDUAL KNOWS OR REASONABLY SHOULD KNOW TO ORDINARILY BE USED BY,**
26 **OR BELONG TO, A TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, INTERNET, OR OTHER WIRELESS**
27 **COMMUNICATION COMPANY.**

28 **17–1010.1.**

1 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL JUNK DEALERS, SCRAP METAL
2 PROCESSORS, AND ANTIQUE DEALERS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE STATE.

3 (B) (1) EACH JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE
4 DEALER SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION WHO PURCHASES TELECOMMUNICATIONS
5 EQUIPMENT SHALL REGISTER WITH THE SHERIFF OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT
6 OFFICIAL DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE
7 BUSINESS OF THE JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE DEALER
8 IS LOCATED A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
9 EQUIPMENT.

10 (2) THE DESCRIPTION SHALL INCLUDE:

11 (I) THE DATE AND TIME OF PURCHASE;

12 (II) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SELLER; AND

13 (III) THE LICENSE TAG NUMBER OF ANY VEHICLE USED.

14 (C) A JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE DEALER
15 SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION WHO PURCHASES TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT
16 MAY PURCHASE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ONLY BY ISSUING A CHECK
17 THAT IS MAILED TO THE SELLER'S ADDRESS.

18 (D) TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MAY NOT BE SOLD OR OTHERWISE
19 DISPOSED OF FOR A PERIOD OF 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PURCHASE.

20 (E) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION:

21 (1) IS SUBJECT TO REVOCATION OF ANY STATE JUNK LICENSE HELD
22 BY THE PERSON; AND

23 (2) IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND, ON CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT
24 TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000.

25 Article – Criminal Law

26 6–305.1.

27 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
28 INDICATED.

1 **(2) “TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY” MEANS A COMPANY THAT**
2 **PROVIDES BROADBAND INTERNET, CABLE TELEVISION, TELEPHONE, OR OTHER**
3 **WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SERVICES.**

4 **(3) (I) “TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE” MEANS ITEMS**
5 **THAT ARE USED TO PROVIDE BROADBAND INTERNET, CABLE TELEVISION,**
6 **TELEPHONE, OR OTHER WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SERVICES.**

7 **(II) “TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE” INCLUDES:**

- 8 1. **ANTENNAE;**
- 9 2. **FIBER OPTIC CABLES;**
- 10 3. **HEADENDS;**
- 11 4. **TELEPHONE POLES;**
- 12 5. **RADIO TRANSCEIVERS;**
- 13 6. **RADIO TOWERS;**
- 14 7. **WIRELESS SUPPORT STRUCTURES;**
- 15 8. **SMALL CELL FACILITIES; AND**
- 16 9. **OFFICE FACILITIES.**

17 **(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:**

18 **(1) AN EMPLOYEE OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OR A**
19 **PERSON ACTING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY;**
20 **OR**

21 **(2) SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
22 **COMPANY AND ITS MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT, OR FACILITIES BY A POLITICAL**
23 **SUBDIVISION WITHIN WHICH THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY IS DOING**
24 **BUSINESS.**

25 **(C) A PERSON MAY NOT RECKLESSLY OR WILLFULLY AND MALICIOUSLY**
26 **DEFACE, DAMAGE, OR DESTROY TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.**

1 **(D) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND**
2 **ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 6 MONTHS OR A**
3 **FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR BOTH.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2026.