

# HOUSE BILL 1100

C2, E1

6lr3426  
CF SB 782

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By: **Delegate Pruski**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – Business Regulation  
 2 Section 17–1001(f)(1)(ii)9. and ~~(m) and 17–1010.1~~ 10.  
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 4 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

5 BY adding to  
 6 Article – Criminal Law  
 7 Section 6–305.1  
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 9 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Business Regulation**

13 17–1001.

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

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

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

18 8. cell tower batteries; [and]

19 9. ~~TELECOMMUNICATIONS~~ ~~EQUIPMENT~~  
 20 TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE AS DEFINED IN § 6–305.1 OF THE  
 21 CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE;

22 10. ANY OTHER USED ARTICLES OWNED BY A  
 23 TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, AS DEFINED IN § 6–305.1 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW  
 24 ARTICLE, INCLUDING:

25 A. BURNED WIRES;

26 B. BUSBARS;

27 C. POWER INVERTERS; AND

28 D. MATERIALS WITH IDENTIFIABLE MARKERS THAT  
 29 INDICATE OWNERSHIP BY THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY; AND

30 [9.] ~~10.~~ 11. any other used articles owned by a public utility  
 31 including:

- 1 A. guardrails;
- 2 B. manhole covers;
- 3 C. metal light poles;
- 4 D. tree grates;
- 5 E. water meters; and
- 6 F. street signs.

7 (2) "Junk" or "scrap metal" does not include beverage cans or food cans.

8 ~~(M) "TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT" MEANS AN ITEM THAT AN~~  
9 ~~INDIVIDUAL KNOWS OR REASONABLY SHOULD KNOW TO ORDINARILY BE USED BY,~~  
10 ~~OR BELONG TO, A TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, INTERNET, OR OTHER WIRELESS~~  
11 ~~COMMUNICATION COMPANY.~~

12 ~~17-1010.1.~~

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

15 ~~(B) (1) EACH JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE~~  
16 ~~DEALER SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION WHO PURCHASES TELECOMMUNICATIONS~~  
17 ~~EQUIPMENT SHALL REGISTER WITH THE SHERIFF OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT~~  
18 ~~OFFICIAL DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE~~  
19 ~~BUSINESS OF THE JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE DEALER~~  
20 ~~IS LOCATED A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS~~  
21 ~~EQUIPMENT.~~

22 ~~(2) THE DESCRIPTION SHALL INCLUDE:~~

23 ~~(I) THE DATE AND TIME OF PURCHASE;~~

24 ~~(II) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SELLER; AND~~

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

26 ~~(C) A JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE DEALER~~  
27 ~~SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION WHO PURCHASES TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT~~  
28 ~~MAY PURCHASE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ONLY BY ISSUING A CHECK~~  
29 ~~THAT IS MAILED TO THE SELLER'S ADDRESS.~~

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

~~(E) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION:~~

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

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

### Article – Criminal Law

#### 6-305.1.

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

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

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

(II) “TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE” INCLUDES:

1. ANTENNAE;
2. FIBER OPTIC AND COPPER CABLES;
3. HEADENDS;
4. TELEPHONE POLES;
5. RADIO TRANSCEIVERS;
6. RADIO TOWERS;
7. WIRELESS SUPPORT STRUCTURES;
8. SMALL CELL FACILITIES; AND

1                                   **9. OFFICE FACILITIES.**

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

3                   **(1) AN EMPLOYEE OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OR A**  
4 **PERSON ACTING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY;**  
5 **OR**

6                   **(2) SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS**  
7 **COMPANY AND ITS MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT, OR FACILITIES BY A POLITICAL**  
8 **SUBDIVISION WITHIN WHICH THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY IS DOING**  
9 **BUSINESS.**

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

12           **(D) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A ~~FELONY~~**  
13 **MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT**  
14 **EXCEEDING 6 MONTHS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING ~~\$5,000~~ \$500 OR BOTH.**

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.