

# SENATE BILL 782

C2, E1

6lr2943  
CF HB 1100

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By: **Senator Jackson**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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## 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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Criminal Law

Section 6–305.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

**Article – Business Regulation**

17–1001.

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

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

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

8. cell tower batteries; [and]

**9. TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT; AND**

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

A. guardrails;

B. manhole covers;

C. metal light poles;

D. tree grates;

E. water meters; and

F. street signs.

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

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

**17–1010.1.**

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

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

(2) THE DESCRIPTION SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) THE DATE AND TIME OF PURCHASE;

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

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

(C) A JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE DEALER SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION WHO PURCHASES TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MAY PURCHASE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ONLY BY ISSUING A CHECK 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 CABLES;**
- 3. HEADENDS;**
- 4. TELEPHONE POLES;**
- 5. RADIO TRANSCEIVERS;**
- 6. RADIO TOWERS;**
- 7. WIRELESS SUPPORT STRUCTURES;**
- 8. SMALL CELL FACILITIES; AND**
- 9. OFFICE FACILITIES.**

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

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

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

**(C) A PERSON MAY NOT RECKLESSLY OR WILLFULLY AND MALICIOUSLY 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.