

JOHNNY MAUTZ
Legislative District 37B
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
and Wicomico Counties

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 424
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3429 · 301-858-3429
800-492-7122 Ext. 3429
Fax 410-841-3523 · 301-858-3523
Johnny.Mautz@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Re: HB1508 - Information Technology - Communications Lines - Installation

HB1508 is intended to codify guidance that has been issued by the Department of Information and Technology (DoIT), which was implemented to help drive investment toward unserved areas around the state.

Rights of Way issues are costly and challenging aspects of “last-mile” broadband deployment that are critical but oftentimes overlooked in the discussion of broadband deployment.

Fortunately, and with the help of Governor Hogan’s Office, DoIT has issued guidance that prohibits the state from collecting fees for using rights of way that are necessary for connecting unserved areas of the state.

By codifying this guidance, we will establish a permanent policy for accessing state rights of way for unserved areas.

We ask for your favorable report on HB1508.