

**ANTONIO HAYES**  
*Legislative District 40*  
Baltimore City

---

Finance Committee



*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 222  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3656 • 301-858-3656  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3656  
Antonio.Hayes@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

March 9, 2021

**Testimony of Senator Hayes in Support of Senate Bill 754: Public Service Commission - Damaged, Obsolete, or Excessive Lines - Fines**

Chairperson Kelley and Fellow Members of the Finance Committee,

Damaged and obsolete power lines are not only unsightly, but can also be dangerous and potential fire hazards. In numerous alleyways and streets across Maryland, these black wires even dangle low enough to reach eye-level. The wires stand in the way of clean-up and revitalization projects, and serve as an altogether public nuisance.

**SB754** requires the Public Service Commission to notify a utility pole's owner about any lines deemed damaged, dangling, obsolete, or a public nuisance due to an excessive amount of power lines, upon receiving a complaint from the public. The owner will be given 30 days to repair or remove the offending line after receiving notice.

If the pole is not attended to within 90 days of receiving this notice, the owner will face a fine of \$250 for each day of noncompliance.

The inattention to these wires leaves residents feeling neglected and frustrated. Upon introducing this legislation, I have received many calls and emails to my office expressing dismay at the neglect that people have experienced around the wires. After repeated attempts to call various utility companies to solve the problem, many people have given up. Companies should be obligated to remove redundant and potentially dangerous wiring, rather than run a new length of wire at infinitum.

**For these reasons, I strongly urge a favorable report on SB 754.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District - MD