

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Public Utilities

Alcoholic Beverages

Property and Casualty Insurance



The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 151
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3352 · 301-858-3352
800-492-7122 Ext. 3352
Fax 410-841-3132 · 301-858-3132
Benjamin.Brooks@house.state.md.us

District Office
8419 Liberty Road, Suite B
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244-3133
410-496-4037

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT OF HB994
PUBLIC UTILITIES – UNDERGROUND FACILITIES – ONE-CALL SYSTEM**

Economic Matters Committee
March 3, 2022

Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on HB994, Public Utilities – Underground Facilities – One-Call System. The purpose of this bill is to change the requirements of the Maryland-One-Call System otherwise known as “The Miss Utility Ticket”. In particular, this bill would require callers to give a specific work-start date and geographic area that needs to be surveyed. Furthermore, it would alter the time frame in which a ticket is valid and when the utilities must be marked by a contractor.

As the amount of construction in Maryland increases, so will the number of utilities that need to be marked for safe construction. Currently, facility owners and contractors have been swamped with the high volume of marking requests. To make matters worse, the current labor-market crisis caused by the pandemic has also drastically reduced the amount of competent and qualified contractors able to take on these jobs.

The new changes implemented by HB994 would help mitigate these problems. First, it would require customers to more accurately describe their work area and avoid contractors from having to come back for future ticket updates. Second, it would give facility owners and contractors far more flexibility in managing ticket volume by replacing mandatory response and construction dates with construction start dates selected by the contractor. This would allow contractors to benefit from the full 12-day ticket life.

The safety of Maryland construction projects depends on contractors being able to accurately mark out utilities on work-sites. HB994 will give contractors much needed assistance to do their jobs and ease the pressure on an already busy Utility Ticket system.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Benjamin Brooks