



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: **HB 101**

TITLE: State Highway Projects – Removal, Relocation, and Adjustment
of Utility Facilities – Notification, Work Plans, and Compliance

SPONSOR: Delegate Charkoudian

COMMITTEE: Economic Matters

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

DATE: February 15, 2024

Baltimore County **OPPOSES** House Bill 101 – State Highway Projects – Removal, Relocation, and Adjustment of Utility Facilities – Notification, Work Plans, and Compliance. This legislation would require the State Highway Administration (SHA) to provide notices to the owner or operator of a utility facility for the removal, relocation, or adjustment of the utility facility for a state highway project. This bill would apply to public-owned utilities such as the water and sewer system.

Baltimore County’s Department of Public Works and Transportation raised several concerns while reviewing this legislation. If passed, HB 101 legislates that the State Highway Administration would decide, without input from the relevant local government, that a utility facility owned by the local government (i.e. a water or sewer system) must be relocated. Under this legislation, the local government would then be responsible for the planning and execution of the facility move within 120 days and beginning work on moving the utility facility in 60 days. Additionally, local governments would be required to bear the totality of the relocation cost regardless of the timeline. HB 101 provides no allowance for weather delays, conflicts, and other circumstances that may impact work schedules. Furthermore, the required timeframes do not allow proper time for contractor procurement, material procurements, and permitting processes. Overall, HB 101 places challenging and unreasonable time and cost requirements on local governments in relocating public utilities.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 101 from the House Economic Matters committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.