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SB401: MDOT Utilities Data

Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee

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When transportation projects are being planned and constructed, it is vital that information on local utility infrastructure is easily accessible. [SB401](#), requested by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), would require utility owners to digitally report new installations within rights-of-way or property that is owned or controlled by MDOT or the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA), within 60 days.

MDOT seeks to continue to work with utility providers. SB401 will:

- Minimize the potential impact of future projects;
- Avoid costly rights-of-way restoration;
- Reduce intrusive utility maintenance operations;
- Eliminate unnecessary disruptions for the traveling public; and
- Save taxpayers and utility customers money through increased cooperation.

To ensure compliance, this bill allows— but does not require— MDOT or MTA to order the removal of any construction for which the requested information was not properly submitted. They may also deny the issuance of future permits to the utility in violation.

It is important to note that a majority of large utility companies already collect location data for their facilities. SB401 will make sure that this data is transmitted to the proper governmental entity in a timely manner and a usable format. Overall, ensuring that this data is shared will improve project schedules and reduce costs by avoiding unforeseen delays caused by previously unknown utility installations.

I defer to the experts at MDOT to answer any technical questions.