


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Frank Murphy, Acting Director	CITY of BALTIMORE	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 19-0354	M E M O	

TO: Ex Officio Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young
TO: Judiciary & Legislative Investigations Committee
FROM: Department of Transportation
POSITION: Support
RE: City Council Bill – 19-0354

DATE: 4/29/19

INTRODUCTION – Underground Conduit System for Cables, Wires, and Similar Facilities

PURPOSE/PLANS – For the purpose of clarifying the location and administration of an underground conduit system for cables, wires, and similar facilities; requiring the Department of Transportation to administer and maintain the system and to prepare the plans and specifications for its construction, maintenance, and repair; limiting use of the conduit system to persons who have obtained certain permits and other legal authorizations and have paid certain annual charges; requiring the removal of unauthorized installations; providing for the voluntary and mandatory relocation of certain facilities; prohibiting tampering with, opening, or interfering with manholes or facilities in the conduit system; providing for records of and annual reporting by conduit users; authorizing the issuance, service, and enforcement of stop-work orders; imposing civil and criminal penalties for offenses; providing for a special effective date; and generally updating the laws governing the construction, use, maintenance, and repair of an underground conduit system for electrical, communication, and service cables, wires, and similar facilities.

COMMENTS – This legislation is primarily designed to:

- Update the existing code by replacing out of date 20th century terminology with more appropriate 21st century language.
- Strengthen penalties for unauthorized use – targeting entities responsible for running cable, fiber, etc. within Baltimore’s municipal conduit system without a permit. Unauthorized use of our conduit potentially results in less revenue to maintain the system and a reduction of available space that could be utilized for a variety of services that could be of benefit to Baltimore’s residents and business community.
- Require entities with lease agreements to provide the Department of Transportation annual reports by June 30th of each year that will include detailed maps of their facilities in our conduit, the total linear footage of facilities in our conduit system, and any other information deemed necessary by the Director of the Department of Transportation.
- Although this bill does significantly increase the fine for unauthorized use, this bill should not be seen as means to significantly increase revenue. The increased fine is primarily designed as a deterrent mechanism.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION – The Department of Transportation Supports City Council Bill – 19-0354.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Liam Davis at Liam.Davis@baltimorecity.gov or at 410-545-3207.

Sincerely,


Frank Murphy
Acting Director