



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Bill: 21-0122

Franchise - Installation of 5 Utilities/Ductbanks

Sponsor: Council President for the Administration (Transportation)

Introduced: September 13, 2021

Purpose:

For the purpose of granting a franchise to The Johns Hopkins University (Developer’s Agreement #1710) to construct, use, and maintain 5 utilities/ductbanks, subject to certain terms, conditions, and reservations; and providing for a special effective date.

Effective: The date it is enacted.

Agency Reports

City Solicitor	Favorable
Department of Transportation	
Fire Department	
Department of Planning	No Objection/ Defers to DOT
Department of Housing and Community Development	
Parking Authority of Baltimore City	Not Opposed
Department of Finance	Not Opposed
Board of Estimates	

Analysis

Current Law

Article VIII - Franchises – Baltimore City Charter (1996 Edition)

Background

The Baltimore City Charter requires that any given franchises must be granted by ordinance containing terms and conditions of the grant. As required, this bill has also been referred to the Board of Estimates to determine compensation to be paid to the City for the franchise. The Board of Estimates may also alter the terms and conditions of the franchise.

Bill 21-0122 proposes to grant a franchise to The Johns Hopkins University (JHU) to construct, use and maintain five (5) utilities /duct-banks which will be located under Wyman Park Drive. The Johns Hopkins University has a Right-of-Entry Agreement (Developer's Agreement #1710) dated December 18, 2020 for private utilities in the vicinity of Wyman Park Drive and 3200 North Charles Street. The utilities will be constructed, used and maintained at the expense of JHU. The duct-banks will serve current and future buildings at the site.

All terms and conditions are outlined in the bill. The bill will become effective on the date of enactment. If granted, the franchise must be executed and enjoyed within 6 months of the effective date of the ordinance. The initial term of the franchise is one (1) year. The franchise would renew automatically for twenty-four (24) consecutive 1-year renewal terms. The maximum term of the franchise is 25 years. The Board of Estimates has authority to determine a franchise fee.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Reporting Agencies, Right-of-Entry Agreement (Developer's Agreement 1710) and Bill 21-0122

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Analysis Date: November 11, 2021