



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Bill: 22-0214

Franchise - Underground Snow Melt System

Sponsor: *The Council President for the Administration (Department of Transportation)*

Introduced: *April 4, 2022*

Purpose:

For the purpose of granting a franchise to the Johns Hopkins Hospital to construct, use, and maintain an underground snow melt system, 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	
Parking Authority of Baltimore City	Not Opposed
Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals	
Department of Housing and Community Development	No Objection
Department of Planning	No Objection/Defers to DOT
Fire Department	

Analysis

Current Law

Baltimore City Charter; Article VIII - Franchises (Edition 1996).

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.

Background

Bill 22-0214 proposes to grant a franchise to The Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH) to install and maintain, in connection with certain facilities, an underground Snow Melt System in the sidewalk of the 1700 block of East Monument Street. The utilities will be constructed, used and maintained at the expense of JHH.

The snow melt, heat board system, is designed to melt snow during storms. The system is basically composed of three components: a heating cable, control unit and activation device. The system can help extend the life of concrete and asphalt, as well as reduce the use of salt.

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 Mayor and City Council, acting through the Department of Public Works, may terminate the franchise after giving written notice 90 days prior to the end of the 1-term renewal terms. The Board of Estimates has authority to determine a franchise fee.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Reporting Agencies, Bill 22-0214

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