



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Bill: 21-0083

Franchise - Gas Regulator Station Utility at Lower Gwynns Falls Park

Sponsor: *The Council President for the Administration (Department of Recreation and Parks)*

Introduced: *May 17, 2021*

Purpose:

For the purpose of granting a franchise to Baltimore Gas and Electric Company to construct, use, and maintain a gas regulator station utility, 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	Favorable
Office of the Comptroller	No Objection
Parking Authority of Baltimore City	Not Opposed
Department of Housing and Community Development	No Objection
Department of Planning	No Objection, Defers to DOT
Fire Department	No Objection
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 21-0083 proposes to grant a franchise to Baltimore Gas Electric Company (BGE) to construct, use and maintain a gas regulator station in Gwynns Falls Park, subject to certain conditions. The franchise is related to a construction project on the Wilkens Avenue Bridge, which is situated over Gwynns Falls. The bridge also lies near the intersection of Hurley and Wilkens Avenue. BGE currently has gas infrastructure under Wilkens Avenue and near the intersection.

The Department of Transportation intends to replace the Wilkens Avenue Bridge. Relocation of the BGE gas regulator is needed so that the Department of Transportation can begin construction on the bridge. The franchise would allow BGE to relocate their existing gas regulator and related equipment from the bridge to Gwynns Falls Park. The Department of Recreation and Parks is the agency responsible for Gwynns Falls Park.

The franchise would terminate 25 years after the effective date of this ordinance. Within one year prior to expiration of the franchise, the grantee may request renewal for additional periods of 25 years, subject to certain terms and conditions. The Board of Estimates will determine compensation.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Reporting Agencies and Bill 21-0083

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