

HOUSE BILL 1100

C2, E1

(6lr3426)

ENROLLED BILL
— *Economic Matters/Finance* —

Introduced by **Delegate Pruski**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Telecommunications Infrastructure – Protections**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that certain documentation may establish lawful authority
4 to sell certain telecommunications equipment as junk or scrap metal; requiring
5 certain junk dealers, scrap metal processors, and antique dealers to register and
6 provide a description including certain information of purchased
7 telecommunications equipment with a certain law enforcement official; ~~prohibiting~~
8 ~~certain junk dealers, scrap metal processors, and antique dealers from purchasing~~
9 ~~telecommunications equipment other than by check mailed to the seller's address;~~
10 ~~prohibiting the sale or disposal of certain telecommunications equipment within a~~
11 ~~certain period~~; prohibiting certain individuals from destroying telecommunications
12 infrastructure in a certain manner; and generally relating to telecommunications
13 equipment and infrastructure.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Article – Business Regulation
 2 Section 17–1001(a) ~~and (f)(2)~~ and (f)(1)(ii)9. and (2)
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland
 4 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 6 Article – Business Regulation
 7 Section 17–1001(f)(1)(ii)8. and ~~9. 17–1009(d)~~
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland
 9 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

10 ~~BY adding to~~
 11 ~~Article – Business Regulation~~
 12 ~~Section 17–1001(f)(1)(ii)9. and (m) and 17–1010.1–10.~~
 13 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 14 ~~(2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

15 BY adding to
 16 Article – Criminal Law
 17 Section 6–305.1
 18 Annotated Code of Maryland
 19 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 Article – Business Regulation

23 17–1001.

24 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

25 (f) (1) “Junk” or “scrap metal” includes:

26 (ii) the following used articles, made of either ferrous or nonferrous
 27 metal:

28 8. ~~cell tower batteries; [and]~~

29 ~~9. TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT~~
 30 ~~TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE AS DEFINED IN § 6–305.1 OF THE~~
 31 ~~CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE;~~

32 ~~10. TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT THAT INCLUDES~~
 33 ~~ANY OTHER USED ARTICLES OWNED BY A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, AS~~
 34 ~~DEFINED IN § 6–305.1 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE, INCLUDING:~~

- 1 A. ANTENNAE;
 2 B. BURNED WIRES;
 3 ~~B.~~ C. BUSBARS;
 4 ~~C.~~ D. CELL TOWER BATTERIES;
 5 E. FIBER OPTIC AND COPPER CABLES;
 6 F. POWER INVERTERS; AND
 7 ~~D.~~ G. MATERIALS WITH IDENTIFIABLE MARKERS THAT
 8 INDICATE OWNERSHIP BY THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY; AND

9 H. SMALL CELL FACILITIES; AND

10 ~~{9.} 10. 11.~~ any other used articles owned by a public utility
 11 including:

- 12 A. guardrails;
 13 B. manhole covers;
 14 C. metal light poles;
 15 D. tree grates;
 16 E. water meters; and
 17 F. street signs.

18 (2) “Junk” or “scrap metal” does not include beverage cans or food cans.

19 17-1009.

20 (d) (1) A junk dealer or scrap metal processor may not barter, buy, exchange, or
 21 accept from a person any junk or scrap metal unless the junk dealer or scrap metal processor
 22 keeps records and makes entries in them in accordance with this subtitle.

23 (2) A junk dealer or scrap metal processor may not purchase a catalytic
 24 converter from an individual unless the individual, at the time of purchase, provides
 25 identification as:

1 (i) a licensed automotive dismantler and recycler or scrap metal
 2 processor; or

3 (ii) an agent or employee of a licensed commercial enterprise.

4 (3) (I) A junk dealer or scrap metal processor may not purchase a
 5 cemetery urn, grave marker, or any other item listed under § 17-1001(f)(1)(ii) of this subtitle
 6 from an individual unless the individual, at the time of purchase, provides appropriate
 7 authorization from a relevant business or unit of federal, State, or local government OR
 8 FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WITH AUTHORIZATION UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
 9 PARAGRAPH specifically authorizing the individual to conduct the transaction.

10 (II) FOR A PURCHASE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT
 11 SOLD AS JUNK OR SCRAP METAL, APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZATION UNDER THIS
 12 SUBSECTION INCLUDES A BILL OF SALE, RECEIPT, LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION, OR
 13 OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE THAT THE SELLER HAS LAWFUL AUTHORITY TO
 14 SELL THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

15 (M) ~~“TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT” MEANS AN ITEM THAT AN~~
 16 ~~INDIVIDUAL KNOWS OR REASONABLY SHOULD KNOW TO ORDINARILY BE USED BY,~~
 17 ~~OR BELONG TO, A TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, INTERNET, OR OTHER WIRELESS~~
 18 ~~COMMUNICATION COMPANY.~~

19 ~~17-1010.1.~~

20 (A) ~~THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL JUNK DEALERS, SCRAP METAL~~
 21 ~~PROCESSORS, AND ANTIQUE DEALERS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THE STATE.~~

22 (B) (1) ~~EACH JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE~~
 23 ~~DEALER SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION WHO PURCHASES TELECOMMUNICATIONS~~
 24 ~~EQUIPMENT SHALL REGISTER WITH THE SHERIFF OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT~~
 25 ~~OFFICIAL DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE~~
 26 ~~BUSINESS OF THE JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE DEALER~~
 27 ~~IS LOCATED A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS~~
 28 ~~EQUIPMENT.~~

29 (2) ~~THE DESCRIPTION SHALL INCLUDE:~~

30 (I) ~~THE DATE AND TIME OF PURCHASE;~~

31 (II) ~~THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SELLER; AND~~

32 (III) ~~THE LICENSE TAG NUMBER OF ANY VEHICLE USED.~~

1 ~~(C) A JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE DEALER~~
2 ~~SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION WHO PURCHASES TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT~~
3 ~~MAY PURCHASE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ONLY BY ISSUING A CHECK~~
4 ~~THAT IS MAILED TO THE SELLER'S ADDRESS.~~

5 ~~(D) TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MAY NOT BE SOLD OR OTHERWISE~~
6 ~~DISPOSED OF FOR A PERIOD OF 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PURCHASE.~~

7 ~~(E) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION:~~

8 ~~(1) IS SUBJECT TO REVOCATION OF ANY STATE JUNK LICENSE HELD~~
9 ~~BY THE PERSON; AND~~

10 ~~(2) IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND, ON CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT~~
11 ~~TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000.~~

12 Article – Criminal Law

13 6-305.1.

14 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
15 INDICATED.

16 (2) “TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY” MEANS A COMPANY THAT
17 PROVIDES BROADBAND INTERNET, CABLE TELEVISION, TELEPHONE, OR OTHER
18 WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SERVICES.

19 (3) (I) “TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE” MEANS ITEMS
20 THAT ARE USED TO PROVIDE BROADBAND INTERNET, CABLE TELEVISION,
21 TELEPHONE, OR OTHER WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SERVICES.

22 (II) “TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE” INCLUDES:

- 23 1. ANTENNAE;
- 24 2. FIBER OPTIC AND COPPER CABLES;
- 25 3. HEADENDS;
- 26 4. TELEPHONE POLES;
- 27 5. RADIO TRANSCEIVERS;

- 1 **6. RADIO TOWERS;**
- 2 **7. WIRELESS SUPPORT STRUCTURES;**
- 3 **8. SMALL CELL FACILITIES; AND**
- 4 **9. TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OFFICE**
- 5 **FACILITIES.**

6 **(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:**

7 **(1) AN EMPLOYEE OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OR A**
8 **PERSON ACTING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY;**
9 **OR**

10 **(2) SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
11 **COMPANY AND ITS MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT, OR FACILITIES BY A POLITICAL**
12 **SUBDIVISION WITHIN WHICH THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY IS DOING**
13 **BUSINESS.**

14 **(C) A PERSON MAY NOT RECKLESSLY OR WILLFULLY AND MALICIOUSLY**
15 **DEFACE, DAMAGE, OR DESTROY TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.**

16 **(D) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A ~~FELONY~~**
17 **MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT**
18 **EXCEEDING 6 MONTHS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING ~~\$5,000~~ \$500 OR BOTH.**

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.