

# SENATE BILL 782

C2, E1

6lr2943  
CF HB 1100

---

By: **Senator Jackson**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 2026

---

## 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,  
15 Article – Business Regulation  
16 Section 17–1001(a) ~~and (f)(2)~~ and (f)(1)(ii)9. and (2)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
20 Article – Business Regulation  
21 Section 17–1001(f)(1)(ii)8. and ~~9~~ 17–1009(d)  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

---

### 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.



1 ~~BY adding to~~  
 2 ~~Article – Business Regulation~~  
 3 ~~Section 17–1001(f)(1)(ii)9. and (m) and 17–1010.1~~  
 4 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 5 ~~(2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

6 BY adding to  
 7 Article – Criminal Law  
 8 Section 6–305.1  
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Business Regulation**

14 17–1001.

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

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

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

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

20 ~~9.~~ **TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT THAT INCLUDES**  
 21 **ANY OTHER USED ARTICLES OWNED BY A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, AS**  
 22 **DEFINED IN § 6–305.1 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE, INCLUDING:**

23 **A. ANTENNAE;**

24 **B. BURNED WIRES;**

25 **C. BUSBARS;**

26 **D. CELL TOWER BATTERIES;**

27 **E. FIBER OPTIC AND COPPER CABLES;**

28 **F. POWER INVERTERS;**

1 G. MATERIALS WITH IDENTIFIABLE MARKERS THAT  
 2 INDICATE OWNERSHIP BY THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY; AND

3 H. SMALL CELL FACILITIES; AND

4 ~~§ 9.1 10.~~ any other used articles owned by a public utility  
 5 including:

6 A. guardrails;

7 B. manhole covers;

8 C. metal light poles;

9 D. tree grates;

10 E. water meters; and

11 F. street signs.

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

13 17–1009.

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

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

20 (i) a licensed automotive dismantler and recycler or scrap metal  
 21 processor; or

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

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

1                    (II) FOR A PURCHASE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT  
 2 SOLD AS JUNK OR SCRAP METAL, APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZATION UNDER THIS  
 3 SUBSECTION INCLUDES A BILL OF SALE, RECEIPT, LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION, OR  
 4 OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE THAT THE SELLER HAS LAWFUL AUTHORITY TO  
 5 SELL THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

6                    ~~(M) "TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT" MEANS AN ITEM THAT AN~~  
 7 ~~INDIVIDUAL KNOWS OR REASONABLY SHOULD KNOW TO ORDINARILY BE USED BY,~~  
 8 ~~OR BELONG TO, A TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, INTERNET, OR OTHER WIRELESS~~  
 9 ~~COMMUNICATION COMPANY.~~

10 ~~17 1010.1.~~

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

13                    ~~(B) (1) EACH JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE~~  
 14 ~~DEALER SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION WHO PURCHASES TELECOMMUNICATIONS~~  
 15 ~~EQUIPMENT SHALL REGISTER WITH THE SHERIFF OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT~~  
 16 ~~OFFICIAL DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE~~  
 17 ~~BUSINESS OF THE JUNK DEALER, SCRAP METAL PROCESSOR, OR ANTIQUE DEALER~~  
 18 ~~IS LOCATED A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS~~  
 19 ~~EQUIPMENT.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 (1) AN EMPLOYEE OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OR A  
2 PERSON ACTING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY;  
3 OR

4 (2) SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF A TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
5 COMPANY AND ITS MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT, OR FACILITIES BY A POLITICAL  
6 SUBDIVISION WITHIN WHICH THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY IS DOING  
7 BUSINESS.

8 (C) A PERSON MAY NOT RECKLESSLY OR WILLFULLY AND MALICIOUSLY  
9 DEFACE, DAMAGE, OR DESTROY TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

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

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates.