

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**Meeting Date:** 10/6/98

**Reference No.:** CB-98-1998

**Proposer:** Estep

**Draft No.:** 4

**Sponsors:** Estep

**Item Title:** An Act establishing procedures for the granting of franchises for the use of public property and/or public rights-of-way for telecommunications systems; preserving the County's rights in and control over public property and public rights-of-way used to provide

**Drafter:** Maurene Epps Webb  
Office of Law

**Resource Personnel:** Stephanie P. Anderson  
Office of Law

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

<b>Date Presented:</b>	6/23/98	<b>Executive Action:</b>	11/18/98	S
<b>Committee Referral:</b>	6/23/98	PSFM	<b>Effective Date:</b>	1/4/99
<b>Committee Action:</b>	10/1/98	FAV(A)		
<b>Date Introduced:</b>	10/6/98			
<b>Pub. Hearing Date:</b>	10/28/98	2:30 P.M.		

**Council Action:** 10/28/98 ENACTED

**Council Votes:** RVR:N, DB:A, SD:A, JE:A, IG:A, TH:A, WM:A, AS:A, MW:A

**Pass/Fail:** P

**Remarks:**

**10/28/98:** DR-3 amended on the floor; DR-4 enacted

**10/6/98:** DR-2 was amended prior to introduction; DR-3 was introduced by Council Member Estep.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT** Date: 10/1/98

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 4-0, (In favor: Council Members Estep, Bailey, Scott and Wilson).

This bill will establish procedures for granting franchises for the use of public property and public rights-of-way for telecommunications systems; maintaining the County's rights in and control over public property and public rights-of-way used to provide telecommunications services; providing for payment of rights-of-way charges and other valuable considerations by telecommunications franchises and providing for the franchising of telecommunications systems in the County.

The bill contains numerous amendments recommended by the sponsor after a lengthy discussion on the legislation.

The Office of Management and Budget states that the fees and charges will generate some revenue. The vast majority of the revenue will come from the 5% right-of-way charge on existing long distance telecommunications operations. Based on an estimate of \$2 billion of eligible gross revenues in Maryland provided by the consulting firm of Miller and Van Eaton, these estimated charges will generate approximately \$15 million a year for Prince George's County. This estimate is based on limited data and is subject to a large margin of error. All other fees and charges will generate approximately \$130,000 to \$230,000 per fiscal year through FY2002.

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT**  
**(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)**

This legislation will establish procedures for the granting of telecommunications system franchises for the use of public property and/or public rights-of-way in the County.

**CODE INDEX TOPICS:**