

## **5G: WHAT IS 5G AND THE INTERNET OF THINGS MARYLAND BILL UPDATE FROM KATE KHEEL:**

This post is specific to Maryland but has info that would be of use in other states as well, as these are “cookie cutter” bills. [#stop5g](#)

Two “small” cell bills have been cross-filed in the Maryland General Assembly: They will allow mini cell towers in front of our homes AND cap the rates that governments can charge. It is a free for all for the companies and a lose lose for local governments, homeowners and residents.

HB 1767, sponsored by Chair Dereck Davis, filed in the House Economic Matters Committee <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx...> and

SB 1188, sponsored by Chair Thomas Middleton, filed in the Senate Finance Committee <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx....>

These Bills will preempt local authority in cell antenna placement in our streets in Maryland. This will allow cell antenna on our utility poles, in front of homes, on trash cans and on mailboxes.

If I understand it correctly- these bills will also CAP rates. The companies will make millions while the state or local government will make minimal amounts of money and not be able to negotiate higher than the caps in the bill.

As an example, the MD Bill has price caps- "THE COLLOCATION OF SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES ON AN EXISTING OR REPLACEMENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLE MAY NOT EXCEED \$100 EACH FOR THE FIRST FIVE SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES ON THE SAME APPLICATION AND \$50 EACH FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY ON THE SAME APPLICATION" Read it here

The cell phone companies were shopping this bill around for a while. Similar Bills have been put forward in states nationwide- put together by the companies and ALEC.

Governor Brown of California stopped similar bills in California after massive protests and outrage. In the process, countless organizations wrote letters in strong opposition to such a bill.

The AARP is against it. Letter from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), July 19, 2017 "This bill undermines the authority of local government."  
[https://ehtrust.org/wp-cont.../uploads/AARP-Opnose-SB649-1.pdf](https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/AARP-Opnose-SB649-1.pdf)

The Sierra Club is against it. Letter from the Sierra Club  
[https://ehtrust.org/wp-cont.../SB-649-Sierra-Club-OPPOSE.pdf](https://ehtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/SB-649-Sierra-Club-OPPOSE.pdf)

Physicians are against it. Letter from Physicians For Safe Technology in opposition to SB649  
[https://ehtrust.org/.../Physiciand-For-Safe-Technology-A-Lett...](https://ehtrust.org/uploads/Physiciand-For-Safe-Technology-A-Lett...)

Environmental Working group is against it.  
Letter from Environmental Working Group July 26, 2017  
[https://ehtrust.org/.../SB-649-to-Sen.-Hueso-7-26-17-pdf-1.pdf](https://ehtrust.org/uploads/SB-649-to-Sen.-Hueso-7-26-17-pdf-1.pdf)

The companies state this will bridge the digital divide but the Greenlining Institute clarifies that it will NOT do this. It will line companies pockets with profits though. Letter from Greenlining Insitute.  
[https://ehtrust.org/.../SB-649-Greenlining-Institute-Letter-o...](https://ehtrust.org/uploads/SB-649-Greenlining-Institute-Letter-o...)

The State of California Department of Finance has made the recommendation to oppose SB 649 - the same type of Bill as has been prposed in MD stating, "this bill goes too far by usurping city and county zoning authority for infrastructure development, and it potentially imposes reimbursable, state-mandated costs on cities and counties." Read the Report  
here. <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/bills/hb/hb1767f.pdf>  
These two Bills must be stopped - just as was done in California- so that local governments can maintain control of their streets.  
[https://ehtrust.org/.../SB-649-20170823084049AM-SB006491.pdf](https://ehtrust.org/uploads/SB-649-20170823084049AM-SB006491.pdf)

I am deeply concerned to see a PG representative sponsoring the Bill. I do not think Delegate Davis is aware of this issue in terms of health issues. He needs to be fully informed.

Please pass this information on. Please also send us your analysis of this bill. A Coalition is forming in the state to actively oppose this bill.

Thank you ,  
Theodora Scarato

Most interesting, in California, when this bill was proposed, the firefighters unions actively fought to stop it. They got exempted from the forced placement of towers on their stations. An investigative report all about the firefighters and well worth

watching is here

Julie Watts CBS news California [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61h\\_vuBujw0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61h_vuBujw0)

ConsumerWatch: 5G Cellphone Towers Signal Renewed Concerns Over Impacts on Health