



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE

Legislative and Fiscal Summary of Administration Legislation

To: Members, Anne Arundel County Council

From: Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Affairs /s/

Via: Lori L. Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney

Date: November 4, 2024

Subject: Bill No. 86-24: Cable Franchises – Starpower Communications, LLC (doing business as Astound Broadband), Comcast of Maryland, LLC, and Verizon Maryland LLC

This summary was prepared by the Anne Arundel County Government Relations Office for use by members of the Anne Arundel County Council during consideration of Bill No. 86-24.

Summary

The Administration seeks approval of amendments to the current cable franchise agreements with Starpower Communications, LLC (doing business as Astound Broadband) (“Astound”), Comcast of Maryland, LLC (“Comcast”), and Verizon Maryland LLC (“Verizon”) to extend the term of those agreements.

The County is a party to cable franchise agreements entered into pursuant to Article 10 of the County Code with Astound, Comcast, and Verizon. The agreements were effective December 1, 2006, and had terms of 15 years, expiring December 1, 2021. Federal law and the Code provide a process for renewal of cable franchises, that includes the submission of proposals by the cable providers and negotiation of the terms and conditions of the renewals between the cable providers and the carriers. The Office of Information Technology has undertaken the process; however, it has not been completed before the expiration of the current agreements. This Bill approves the extensions of the current franchise agreements through December 31, 2026, to allow the County and Astound, Comcast, and Verizon to negotiate the renewals of their respective agreements.

Note: This Legislative and Fiscal Summary provides a synopsis of the legislation as introduced. It does not address subsequent amendments to the legislation.

Purpose

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the capital budget because the Charter provides that amendments to the capital budget and supplementary appropriations be made by ordinance of the County Council upon recommendation of the County Executive. The County Executive has recommended these amendments and appropriations.

Fiscal Impact

Please see the Fiscal Note the Budget Office has prepared for an explanation of the fiscal impact of this Bill.

Additional Information

The Government Relations Office is available to answer any additional questions regarding this Bill. Specific questions should be directed to Lori L. Blair Klasmeier, Office of Law, or Jack Martin, Office of Information Technology. Thank you.

cc: Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive
Christine Anderson, Chief Administrative Officer
Jenny Proebstle, Chief of Staff
Gregory Swain, County Attorney
Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer
Jack Martin, Chief Information Officer