

House Bill 184

By: Representatives Harrell of the 106<sup>th</sup>, Powell of the 171<sup>st</sup>, England of the 116<sup>th</sup>, and Williamson of the 115<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local government,  
 2 so as to enact the "Streamlining Wireless Facilities and Antennas Act"; to streamline the  
 3 deployment of wireless broadband in the public rights of way; to provide for definitions; to  
 4 require certain meetings between applicants and authorities before applications are submitted  
 5 under this Act; to provide the manner in which this Act may be implemented; to provide rate  
 6 and fee caps and the process to be followed for the removal of small wireless facilities; to  
 7 authorize wireless providers to collocate small wireless facilities on authority poles and  
 8 decorative poles in the right of way subject to administrative review and to occupy the right  
 9 of way for certain uses, including certain placements of poles and certain collocations of  
 10 small wireless facilities, subject to administrative review; to provide a permit application  
 11 process with certain exemptions and certain limitations on an authority's use and  
 12 administration of the right of way; to provide certain time frames and other requirements for  
 13 the application process, permits, relocations, reconditioning, make-ready work,  
 14 abandonment, imminent risks to public safety, repair of damage to the right of way, and  
 15 notices; to require certain applications for other uses to comply with applicable law; to  
 16 require an applicant to comply with certain requirements in the right of way; to provide for  
 17 certain requirements in historic districts; to provide a process by which an authority may  
 18 propose alternative locations for new poles in the right of way in areas zoned for residential  
 19 use; to provide for certain requirements for decorative poles; to provide for consolidated  
 20 applications and the tolling of application processing once certain volumes have been  
 21 reached; to provide for a process for the resolution of conflicting application requests; to  
 22 provide for indemnification by wireless providers and limitations of liability for authorities  
 23 and their officers, employees, or agents; to provide that, absent an agreement to the contrary,  
 24 an authority may not require a wireless provider to provide services unrelated to the  
 25 collocation for which approval is sought; to address the applicability of this Act to  
 26 agreements between authorities and wireless providers entered into before October 1, 2019;  
 27 to provide that, except to the extent authorized by federal law, nothing in this Act authorizes  
 28 the state or any political subdivision thereof, including an authority, to require small wireless

29 facility deployment or to regulate wireless services; to address any perceived conflicts  
 30 between this Act and Chapter 66B of Title 36; to address the law applicable to certain  
 31 activities relating to wireline backhaul facilities; to provide that the approval of certain  
 32 activities relating to small wireless facilities shall not authorize the provision of  
 33 communications services; to provide for certain limitations on the regulation of certain  
 34 communications facilities and the regulation and imposition of a tax, fee, or charge on certain  
 35 communications services; to provide that this Act shall not apply to an authority to the extent  
 36 such authority uses communications facilities to provide free Wi-Fi services to the public;  
 37 to provide that nothing in this Act relieves any person of any duties provided for in Chapter 9  
 38 of Title 25; to provide for related matters; to provide for effective dates; to repeal conflicting  
 39 laws; and for other purposes.

40 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

41 **SECTION 1.**

42 Title 36 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to local government, is amended  
 43 by adding a new chapter to read as follows:

44 "CHAPTER 66C

45 36-66C-1.

46 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the 'Streamlining Wireless Facilities and  
 47 Antennas Act.'

48 36-66C-2.

49 As used in this chapter, the term:

50 (1) 'Administrative review' means review by an authority, including authority staff, of  
 51 an application to determine whether the issuance of a permit is in conformity with the  
 52 applicable provisions of this chapter.

53 (2) 'Antenna' means:

54 (A) Communications equipment that transmits, receives, or transmits and receives  
 55 electromagnetic radio frequency signals used in the provision of wireless services or  
 56 other wireless communications; or

57 (B) Communications equipment similar to equipment described in subparagraph (A)  
 58 of this paragraph used for the transmission, reception, or transmission and reception of  
 59 surface waves.

60 Such term shall not include television broadcast antennas, antennas designed for amateur  
 61 radio use, or satellite dishes for residential or household purposes.

62 (3) 'Applicable codes' means uniform building, fire, safety, electrical, plumbing, or  
63 mechanical codes adopted by a recognized national code organization to the extent such  
64 codes have been adopted by the state or an authority or are otherwise applicable in the  
65 jurisdiction in which the application is submitted.

66 (4) 'Applicant' means any person that submits an application.

67 (5) 'Application' means a written request submitted by an applicant to an authority for  
68 a permit to:

69 (A) Collocate a small wireless facility in a right of way; or

70 (B) Install, modify, or replace a pole or decorative pole in a right of way on which a  
71 small wireless facility is or will be collocated.

72 (6) 'Authority' means any county, consolidated government, or municipality or any  
73 agency, district, subdivision, or instrumentality thereof. Such term shall not include  
74 authority electric utilities.

75 (7) 'Authority pole' means a pole owned, managed, or operated by or on behalf of an  
76 authority.

77 (8) 'Class I Authority' means any county which has 100,000 parcels or more of real  
78 property within the unincorporated area of such county, any consolidated government  
79 which has 100,000 parcels or more of real property within the consolidated area, or any  
80 municipality which has 100,000 parcels or more of real property within the municipality.

81 (9) 'Class II Authority' means any county which has at least 10,000 parcels but less than  
82 100,000 parcels of real property within the unincorporated area of such county, any  
83 consolidated government which has at least 10,000 parcels but less than 100,000 parcels  
84 of real property within the consolidated area, or any municipality which has at least  
85 10,000 parcels but less than 100,000 parcels of real property within the municipality.

86 (10) 'Class III Authority' means any county which has less than 10,000 parcels of real  
87 property within the unincorporated area of such county, any consolidated government  
88 which has less than 10,000 parcels of real property within the consolidated area, or any  
89 municipality which has less than 10,000 parcels of real property within the municipality.

90 (11) 'Collocate' or 'collocation' means to install, mount, modify, or replace a small  
91 wireless facility on or adjacent to a pole, decorative pole, or support structure.

92 (12) 'Communications facility' means the set of equipment and network components,  
93 including wires and cables and associated equipment and network components, used by  
94 a communications service provider to provide communications services.

95 (13) 'Communications service provider' means a provider of communications services.

96 (14) 'Communications services' means cable service as defined in 47 U.S.C.  
97 Section 522(6); telecommunications service as defined in 47 U.S.C. Section 153(53);

- 98 information service as defined in 47 U.S.C. Section 153(24), as each such term existed  
 99 on January 1, 2019; or wireless services.
- 100 (15) 'Consolidated application' means an application for the collocation of multiple small  
 101 wireless facilities on existing poles or support structures or for the installation,  
 102 modification, or replacement of multiple poles and the collocation of associated small  
 103 wireless facilities.
- 104 (16) 'Decorative pole' means an authority pole that is specially designed and placed for  
 105 aesthetic purposes.
- 106 (17) 'Eligible facilities request' means an eligible facilities request as set forth in 47  
 107 C.F.R. Section 1.40001(b)(3), as it existed on January 1, 2019.
- 108 (18) 'FCC' means the Federal Communications Commission of the United States.
- 109 (19) 'Fee' means a one-time, nonrecurring charge based on time and expense.
- 110 (20) 'Historic district' means:
- 111 (A) Any district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion  
 112 in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the secretary of the interior  
 113 of the United States in accordance with Section VI.D.1.a.i-v of the Nationwide  
 114 Programmatic Agreement codified by 47 C.F.R. Part 1;
- 115 (B) Any area designated as a historic district under Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 44,  
 116 the 'Georgia Historic Preservation Act'; or
- 117 (C) Any area designated as a historic district or property by law prior to the effective  
 118 date of this Code section.
- 119 (21) 'Law' means and includes any and all federal, state, or local laws, statutes, common  
 120 laws, codes, rules, regulations, orders, or ordinances.
- 121 (22) 'Metropolitan statistical area' means a standard metropolitan statistical area which  
 122 is located within this state and recognized by the United States Department of Commerce,  
 123 Bureau of the Census, according to the United States decennial census of 2010 or any  
 124 future such census.
- 125 (23) 'Micro wireless facility' means a small wireless facility not larger in dimension  
 126 than 24 inches in length, 15 inches in width, and 12 inches in height that has an exterior  
 127 antenna, if any, no longer than 11 inches.
- 128 (24) 'Permit' means a written authorization, in electronic or hard copy format, required  
 129 to be issued by an authority to initiate, continue, or complete the collocation of a small  
 130 wireless facility or the installation, modification, or replacement of a pole or decorative  
 131 pole upon which a small wireless facility is collocated.
- 132 (25) 'Person' means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership,  
 133 association, trust, or other entity or organization, including an authority.

134 (26) 'Pole' means a vertical pole such as a utility, lighting, traffic, or similar pole made  
135 of wood, concrete, metal, or other material that is lawfully located or to be located within  
136 a right of way, including without limitation a replacement pole and an authority pole.  
137 Such term shall not include a support structure, decorative pole, or electric transmission  
138 structure.

139 (27) 'Rate' means a recurring charge.

140 (28) 'Reconditioning work' means the activities associated with substantially painting,  
141 reconditioning, improving, or repairing authority poles.

142 (29) 'Replace,' 'replacement,' or 'replacing' means to replace a pole or decorative pole  
143 with a new pole or a new decorative pole, similar in design, size, and scale to the existing  
144 pole or decorative pole consistent with 47 C.F.R. 1.40001(b)(7) as it existed on  
145 January 1, 2019, in order to address limitations of, or change requirements applicable to,  
146 the existing pole to structurally support the collocation of a small wireless facility.

147 (30) 'Replacement work' means the activities associated with replacing an authority pole.

148 (31) 'Right of way' has the same meaning as provided in paragraph (25) of Code  
149 Section 32-1-3; provided, however, that such term shall apply only to property or an  
150 interest therein that is under the ownership or control of an authority and shall not include  
151 property or any interest therein acquired for or devoted to an interstate highway or the  
152 public rights, structures, sidewalks, facilities, and appurtenances described in  
153 subparagraph (K) or (R) of paragraph (24) of Code Section 32-1-3.

154 (32) 'Small wireless facility' means radio transceivers; surface wave couplers; antennas;  
155 coaxial, fiber optic, or other cabling; power supply; backup batteries; and comparable and  
156 associated equipment, regardless of technological configuration, at a fixed location or  
157 fixed locations that enable communication or surface wave communication between user  
158 equipment and a communications network and that meet both of the following  
159 qualifications:

160 (A) Each wireless provider's antenna could fit within an enclosure of no more than six  
161 cubic feet in volume; and

162 (B) All other wireless equipment associated with the facility is cumulatively no more  
163 than 28 cubic feet in volume, measured based upon the exterior dimensions of height  
164 by width by depth of any enclosure that may be used. The following types of  
165 associated ancillary equipment are not included in the calculation of the volume of all  
166 other wireless equipment associated with any such facility:

167 (i) Electric meters;

168 (ii) Concealment elements;

169 (iii) Telecommunications demarcation boxes;

170 (iv) Grounding equipment;

171 (v) Power transfer switches;

172 (vi) Cut-off switches; and

173 (vii) Vertical cable runs for connection of power and other services.

174 Such term shall not include a pole, decorative pole, or support structure on, under, or  
 175 within which the equipment is located or collocated or to which the equipment is attached  
 176 and shall not include any wireline backhaul facilities or coaxial, fiber optic, or other  
 177 cabling that is between small wireless facilities, poles, decorative poles, or support  
 178 structures or that is not otherwise immediately adjacent to or directly associated with a  
 179 particular antenna.

180 (33) 'State' means the State of Georgia.

181 (34) 'Support structure' means a building, billboard, water tank, or any other structure to  
 182 which a small wireless facility is or may be attached. Such term shall not include a  
 183 decorative pole, electric transmission structure, or pole.

184 (35) 'Wireless infrastructure provider' means any person, including a person authorized  
 185 to provide telecommunications services in this state, that builds, installs, or operates small  
 186 wireless facilities, poles, decorative poles, or support structures on which small wireless  
 187 facilities are or are intended to be used for collocation but that is not a wireless services  
 188 provider.

189 (36) 'Wireless provider' means a wireless infrastructure provider or a wireless services  
 190 provider.

191 (37) 'Wireless services' means any services provided to the public using licensed or  
 192 unlicensed spectrum, including the use of Wi-Fi, whether at a fixed location or mobile.

193 (38) 'Wireless services provider' means a person that provides wireless services.

194 (39) 'Wireline backhaul facility' means an aboveground or underground wireline facility  
 195 used to transport communications data from a small wireless facility network interface  
 196 device to a network.

197 36-66C-3.

198 (a) An applicant that has not previously held a meeting with a Class I Authority that  
 199 complies with this Code section shall meet with the Class I Authority at least 30 days  
 200 before submitting applications under Code Section 36-66C-6 to inform such authority in  
 201 good faith when such applicant expects to commence deployment of small wireless  
 202 facilities and poles within such authority pursuant to this chapter, the number of small  
 203 wireless facilities and poles it expects to deploy during the 24 months after  
 204 commencement, and the expected timing of such deployments.

205 (b) Upon request by any Class II Authority that is located within a metropolitan statistical  
 206 area and with which the applicant has not previously held a meeting that complies with this

207 Code section, an applicant shall meet with such authority at least 30 days before submitting  
208 applications under Code Section 36-66C-6 to inform such authority in good faith when  
209 such applicant expects to commence deployment of small wireless facilities and poles  
210 within such authority pursuant to this chapter, the number of small wireless facilities and  
211 poles it expects to deploy during the 24 months after commencement, and the expected  
212 timing of such deployments.

213 (c) All documents or other information provided by the applicant in the course of, or in  
214 association with, any meetings provided for in this Code section shall be presumed to be  
215 confidential and proprietary and a trade secret as such term is defined in Code  
216 Section 10-1-761, shall be subject to exemption from disclosure under state and federal  
217 law, and shall not be subject to disclosure under Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50.

218 36-66C-4.

219 A wireless provider may collocate small wireless facilities and install, modify, or replace  
220 associated poles or decorative poles under this chapter without an agreement with an  
221 authority and without an implementing ordinance. An authority may make available to  
222 wireless providers rates, fees, and other terms that comply with this chapter and that are  
223 adopted by ordinance, resolution, or another document by the authority after public notice.  
224 In the absence of an ordinance, a resolution, or another document that complies with this  
225 chapter, and until any such ordinance, a resolution, or other document is adopted, if at all,  
226 a wireless provider may collocate small wireless facilities and install, modify, or replace  
227 associated poles or decorative poles pursuant to the requirements of this chapter. An  
228 authority may not require a wireless provider to enter into an agreement to implement this  
229 chapter, but nothing in this chapter shall prohibit an authority and a wireless provider from  
230 voluntarily entering one or more such agreements, including such agreements with rates,  
231 fees, and other terms that differ from those in this chapter; provided, however, that the  
232 authority shall make each such agreement available for public inspection and available for  
233 adoption upon the same terms and conditions to any requesting wireless provider.

234 36-66C-5.

235 (a) As a condition to the issuance of a permit to collocate a small wireless facility or to  
236 install, modify, or replace a pole or a decorative pole for collocation of a small wireless  
237 facility in a right of way, the applicant shall pay the following fees and rates:

- 238 (1) A fee for each application for the collocation of each small wireless facility on an  
239 existing pole assessed by the authority not to exceed \$100.00 per small wireless facility;  
240 (2) A fee for each application for each replacement pole with an associated small  
241 wireless facility assessed by the authority not to exceed \$250.00;

242 (3) A fee for each application for each new pole with an associated small wireless facility  
 243 assessed by the authority not to exceed \$1,000.00 per pole with an associated small  
 244 wireless facility;

245 (4) An annual right of way occupancy rate assessed by the authority for nonexclusive  
 246 occupancy of the right of way by the applicant not to exceed:

247 (A) One hundred dollars per year for each small wireless facility collocated on any  
 248 existing or replacement pole, including an existing or replacement authority pole; or

249 (B) Two hundred dollars per year for each new pole, other than a replacement pole,  
 250 with an associated small wireless facility;

251 (5) An annual attachment rate for collocations on authority poles not to exceed \$40.00  
 252 per year per small wireless facility, which shall be nondiscriminatory regardless of the  
 253 services provided by the collocating wireless provider;

254 (6) A fee for make-ready work, as provided in subsection (n) of Code Section 36-66C-7;  
 255 and

256 (7) Generally applicable nondiscriminatory fees for any permit required under generally  
 257 applicable law; provided, however, that an applicant shall not be required to obtain or pay  
 258 any fees for a building permit, as the permit issued pursuant to this chapter serves as a  
 259 building permit for the applicable poles and small wireless facilities.

260 (b) The monetary caps provided in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (a)  
 261 of this Code section shall increase 2.5 percent annually beginning January 1, 2021.

262 (c) If, in a final adjudication not subject to further appeal or to review by the United States  
 263 Supreme Court, a federal court reviewing Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment  
 264 by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, et al., Declaratory Ruling and Third  
 265 Report and Order, WT Docket No. 17-79 and WC Docket No. 17-84, FCC 18-133  
 266 (released September 27, 2018), or a related FCC order, or a Georgia federal district court,  
 267 the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, or the United States Supreme  
 268 Court determines that under 47 U.S.C. Section 253(c) as it existed on January 1, 2019, fair  
 269 and reasonable compensation includes not only cost based charges but also market based  
 270 charges with respect to application fees or right of way occupancy rates for the installation  
 271 of small wireless facilities or poles, or to authority pole attachment rates for small wireless  
 272 facilities, then:

273 (1) Beginning on July 1 of the calendar year following the date that the final adjudication  
 274 is no longer subject to further appeal or to review by the United States Supreme Court,  
 275 the monetary caps provided in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of subsection (a) of  
 276 this Code section for the fees or rates to which the determination applies, excluding any  
 277 increases that have been made under subsection (b) of this Code section, shall double;  
 278 and



279 (2) Beginning on July 1 of the second calendar year following the date that the final  
280 adjudication is no longer subject to further appeal or to review by the United States  
281 Supreme Court, the monetary caps in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of  
282 subsection (a) of this Code section for the fees or rates to which the determination applies  
283 shall terminate. In place of any monetary caps that terminate pursuant to this subsection,  
284 applicants shall pay fees or rates, as each may be applicable, that constitute the fair and  
285 reasonable compensation due to the authority under applicable law.

286 (d) An applicant shall not be subject to any fees or rates other than those expressly  
287 provided for by this Code section or as may be otherwise voluntarily negotiated between  
288 an applicant and the authority in accordance with Code Section 36-66C-4.

289 (e) The applicant, or the person that owns or operates the small wireless facility collocated  
290 in the right of way, may remove its small wireless facilities at any time from the right of  
291 way upon not less than 30 days' prior written notice to the authority and may cease paying  
292 to the authority any applicable fees and rates for such use, as of the date of the actual  
293 removal of the small wireless facilities. In the event of such removal, the right of way shall  
294 be, to the extent practicable in the reasonable judgment of the authority, restored to its  
295 condition prior to the removal. If the applicant fails to return the right of way, to the extent  
296 practicable in the reasonable judgment of the authority, to its condition prior to the removal  
297 within 90 days of the removal, the authority may, at the sole discretion of the authority,  
298 restore the right of way to such condition and charge the applicant the authority's  
299 reasonable, documented cost of removal and restoration, plus a penalty not to exceed  
300 \$500.00. The authority may suspend the ability of the applicant to receive any new permits  
301 from the authority until the applicant has paid the amount assessed for such restoration  
302 costs and the penalty assessed, if any; provided, however, that the authority shall not  
303 suspend such ability of any applicant that has deposited the amount in controversy in  
304 escrow pending an adjudication of the merits of the dispute by a court of competent  
305 jurisdiction.

306 36-66C-6.

307 (a) A wireless provider may collocate small wireless facilities on authority poles and  
308 decorative poles in the right of way, subject to administrative review only and the issuance  
309 of a permit as set forth in this Code section. Subject to administrative review only and the  
310 issuance of a permit as set forth in this Code section, provided that such uses shall be in  
311 accordance with applicable provisions of this chapter, including without limitation, those  
312 set forth in Code Section 36-66C-9, a wireless provider may occupy the right of way for  
313 the following uses:

314 (1) Collocation of a small wireless facility on or adjacent to a pole or a support structure  
315 that does not exceed the limitations set forth in paragraph (3) of subsection (h) of Code  
316 Section 36-66C-7 or on or adjacent to a decorative pole in compliance with Code  
317 Section 36-66C-12; and

318 (2) Installation, modification, or replacement of a pole or a decorative pole for  
319 collocation of a small wireless facility that does not exceed the limitations set forth in  
320 paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (h) of Code Section 36-66C-7.

321 (b) No wireless provider shall collocate any small wireless facility in the right of way or  
322 install, modify, or replace a pole or decorative pole for collocation of a small wireless  
323 facility in the right of way without first filing an application and obtaining a permit  
324 therefor, except as otherwise expressly provided in subsection (e) of this Code section.  
325 Any failure to comply with this subsection by a wireless provider shall allow the applicable  
326 authority, at the sole discretion of the authority, to restore the right of way, to the extent  
327 practicable in the reasonable judgment of the authority, to its condition prior to the  
328 unpermitted collocation or installation and to charge the responsible wireless provider its  
329 reasonable, documented cost of doing so, plus a penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00. The  
330 authority may suspend the ability of the wireless provider to receive any new permits from  
331 the authority until the wireless provider has paid the amount assessed for such restoration  
332 costs and the penalty assessed, if any; provided, however, that the authority shall not  
333 suspend such ability of any applicant that has deposited the amount in controversy in  
334 escrow pending an adjudication of the merits of the dispute by a court of competent  
335 jurisdiction.

336 (c) The authority shall make accepted applications publicly available; provided, however,  
337 that an applicant may designate portions of its application materials that it reasonably  
338 believes contain trade secrets by following the procedures set forth in paragraph (34) of  
339 subsection (a) of Code Section 50-18-72.

340 (d) The application shall be made by the applicable wireless provider or its duly authorized  
341 representative and shall contain the following:

342 (1) The applicant's name, address, telephone number, and email address, including  
343 emergency contact information for the applicant;

344 (2) The names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of all consultants, if  
345 any, acting on behalf of the applicant with respect to the filing of the application;

346 (3) A general description of the proposed work and the purposes and intent of the  
347 proposed facility. The scope and detail of such description shall be appropriate to the  
348 nature and character of the physical work to be performed, with special emphasis on  
349 those matters likely to be affected or impacted by the physical work proposed;

350 (4) Detailed construction drawings regarding the proposed use of the right of way;

351 (5) To the extent the proposed facility involves collocation on a pole, decorative pole,  
352 or support structure, a structural report performed by a duly licensed engineer evidencing  
353 that the pole, decorative pole, or support structure will structurally support the  
354 collocation, or that the pole, decorative pole, or support structure may and will be  
355 modified to meet structural requirements, in accordance with applicable codes;

356 (6) For any new aboveground facilities, visual depictions or representations if such are  
357 not included in the construction drawings;

358 (7) Information indicating the horizontal and approximate vertical location, relative to  
359 the boundaries of the right of way, of the small wireless facility for which the application  
360 is being submitted;

361 (8) If the application is for the installation of a pole or replacement of a decorative pole,  
362 a certification that complies with subsection (k) of this Code section;

363 (9) If the small wireless facility will be collocated on a pole or support structure owned  
364 by a third party, other than an authority pole or a decorative pole, a certification that the  
365 wireless provider has permission from the owner to collocate on the pole or support  
366 structure; and

367 (10) If the applicant is not a wireless services provider, a certification that a wireless  
368 services provider has requested in writing that the applicant collocate the small wireless  
369 facilities or install, modify, or replace the pole or decorative pole at the requested  
370 location.

371 (e) An application shall not be required for the following activities, provided that a  
372 wireless provider may be required to obtain permits for such activities, such as electrical  
373 permits or street opening permits, if otherwise required by generally applicable law:

374 (1) With respect to a pole or decorative pole on which a small wireless facility is  
375 collocated, inspections, testing, repairs, and modifications that maintain functional  
376 capacity and aesthetic and structural integrity, provided that modifications are limited by  
377 the structural load analysis supplied by the applicant in its prior application to the  
378 authority; and

379 (2) With respect to a small wireless facility, inspections, testing, or repairs that maintain  
380 functional capacity or the replacement or upgrade of antennas or other components of the  
381 small wireless facility such as a swap out or addition of 5G antennas and radio equipment  
382 as required by the applicant, with antennas and other components that are substantially  
383 similar in color, aggregate size, and other aesthetics to that previously permitted by the  
384 authority and consistent with the height and volume limits for small wireless facilities  
385 under this chapter, so long as the pole, decorative pole, or support structure will  
386 structurally support, or prior to installation will be modified to support, the structural load

387 in accordance with the structural load analysis supplied by the applicant in its prior  
388 application to the authority.

389 (f) An authority shall not require a wireless provider to obtain a permit or any other  
390 approval or require fees or rates for the installation, placement, maintenance, operation, or  
391 replacement of micro wireless facilities that are suspended on cables or power lines that are  
392 strung between poles or support structures in the right of way in compliance with  
393 applicable codes; provided, however, that an authority may require a wireless provider to  
394 obtain permits for any additional activities such as electrical work, excavation, or closure  
395 of sidewalks or vehicular lanes within the right of way if otherwise required by generally  
396 applicable law. Such permits shall be issued on a nondiscriminatory basis upon terms and  
397 conditions applied to any other person's similar activities in the right of way. Nothing in  
398 this subsection shall be construed to allow the installation, placement, maintenance,  
399 operation, or replacement of micro wireless facilities on such cables or power lines without  
400 the agreement, authorization, or permission of the person that owns, manages, or controls  
401 such cables or power lines.

402 (g) Any material change to information contained in an application shall be submitted in  
403 writing to the authority within 30 days after the events necessitating the change.

404 (h) Unless otherwise provided by applicable law, all applications pursuant to this chapter  
405 shall be accompanied by the fees required under Code Sections 36-66C-4 and 36-66C-5.

406 (i) An authority shall not enter into an exclusive arrangement with any person for use of  
407 the right of way for the collocation of small wireless facilities or the installation, operation,  
408 marketing, modification, maintenance, or replacement of poles or for the right to attach to  
409 authority poles. A person that purchases or otherwise acquires an authority pole is subject  
410 to the requirements of this subsection.

411 (j) The authority, in the exercise of its administration and regulation of the management  
412 of the right of way, shall be competitively neutral and nondiscriminatory with regard to  
413 other users of the right of way.

414 (k) A wireless provider shall not apply to install a pole or replace a decorative pole unless  
415 it has determined after diligent investigation that it cannot meet the service objectives of  
416 the permit by collocating on an existing pole or support structure on which:

417 (1) The wireless provider has the right to collocate subject to reasonable terms and  
418 conditions; and

419 (2) Such collocation would not impose technical limitations or significant additional  
420 costs. The wireless provider shall certify that it has made such a determination in good  
421 faith, based on the assessment of a licensed engineer, and shall provide a written  
422 summary of the basis for such determination.

423 (l) Requests for installation, modification, or replacement of a support structure are not  
424 eligible for administrative review as set forth in this Code section.

425 (m) An application that is subject to administrative review shall be approved except as  
426 provided in subsection (j) of Code Section 36-66C-7.

427 (n) The provisions of this chapter concerning the collocation of small wireless facilities  
428 on poles and the installation, modification, and replacement of poles by wireless providers  
429 apply only to poles that are lawfully located or are to be lawfully located within the right  
430 of way. An authority has the burden of establishing that an existing pole's location within  
431 the right of way is not lawful.

432 36-66C-7.

433 (a) The requirements of this Code section govern an authority's review of applications for  
434 uses that are subject to administrative review as described in subsection (a) of Code  
435 Section 36-66C-6.

436 (b) Within 20 days of receipt of a written application, the authority shall:

437 (1) Notify the applicant in writing of the commencement and completion dates of any  
438 widening, repair, reconstruction, or relocation of the applicable right of way that is  
439 scheduled to commence, or is anticipated in good faith to commence, within 24 months  
440 after the application is filed;

441 (2) Notify the applicant, based on the authority's good faith preliminary review of the  
442 information provided in the application, of any aspect of the application that appears to  
443 be grounds for the authority's denial of the application pursuant to subsection (j) of this  
444 Code section; and

445 (3) Determine whether the application is complete and inform the applicant of its  
446 determination in writing. If the authority determines that an application is incomplete,  
447 it shall specifically identify to the applicant in writing all missing information within such  
448 20 day period; otherwise the application is deemed complete. If the authority identifies  
449 missing information to the applicant as provided in this paragraph, the applicant may  
450 submit such missing information to the authority within 20 days of receipt of notification  
451 in writing from the authority that the application is incomplete without paying any  
452 additional application fee, and any subsequent review of the application by the authority  
453 for completeness shall be limited to the previously identified missing information. If the  
454 authority determines that an application remains incomplete, or if the authority  
455 determines that the applicant has made material changes to the application other than to  
456 address the missing information identified by the authority, the authority shall notify the  
457 applicant of such determination in writing within ten days of receipt of the resubmission  
458 of the written application, and absent an agreement to the contrary between the authority

459 and the applicant that is confirmed by email or other writing, such notice shall constitute  
460 a denial of the application. If the authority does not provide such written notification to  
461 the applicant within this ten-day period, the application shall be deemed complete.

462 (c) The authority shall make its final decision to approve or deny the application within 30  
463 days of the written determination that the application is complete or when the application  
464 is deemed complete under paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of this Code section, whichever  
465 is earlier, for a collocation, and within 70 days of the written determination that the  
466 application is complete or when the application is deemed complete under paragraph (3)  
467 of subsection (b) of this Code section, whichever is earlier, for the installation,  
468 modification, or replacement of a pole or decorative pole.

469 (d) A decision to deny an application pursuant to this Code section shall be in writing,  
470 shall identify all reasons for the denial, and shall identify the provisions of applicable codes  
471 or other standards applicable pursuant to this chapter on which the denial was based. The  
472 decision to deny shall be sent to the applicant contemporaneously. The review period shall  
473 run until the written decision is delivered to the applicant in accordance with subsection (s)  
474 of this Code section.

475 (e) If the authority fails to act on an application within the review period provided for in  
476 subsection (d) of this Code section, the applicant may provide the authority written notice  
477 that the time period for acting has lapsed, and the authority shall then have 20 days after  
478 receipt of such notice to render its written decision. The application shall be deemed  
479 approved by passage of time and operation of law if the authority does not render its  
480 written decision within such 20 days.

481 (f) An applicant may, at the applicant's discretion and subject to the consolidated  
482 application requirements and processes under Code Section 36-66C-13, file a consolidated  
483 application.

484 (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and to the extent that an  
485 application constitutes an eligible facilities request, the authority shall not deny the  
486 application and shall approve the application within 60 days according to the procedures  
487 established under 47 C.F.R. 1.40001(c).

488 (h) Small wireless facilities and new, modified, or replacement poles to be used for  
489 collocation of small wireless facilities may be placed in the right of way as a permitted use  
490 in accordance with Code Section 36-66C-6, subject to applicable codes and the following  
491 requirements:

492 (1) Each such new, modified, or replacement pole installed in the right of way in a  
493 historic district and in an area zoned primarily for residential use shall not exceed 50 feet  
494 above ground level;

495 (2) Each such new, modified, or replacement pole installed in the right of way not in  
496 historic district or in an area zoned primarily for residential use shall not exceed the  
497 greater of:

498 (A) Fifty feet above ground level; or

499 (B) Ten feet greater in height above ground level than the tallest existing pole in the  
500 same authority right of way in place as of January 1, 2019, and located within 500 feet  
501 of the new proposed pole; and

502 (3) New small wireless facilities in the right of way shall not exceed:

503 (A) For a collocation on an existing pole or support structure, more than ten feet above  
504 the existing pole or support structure; or

505 (B) For a collocation on a new, modified, or replacement pole under paragraph (1)  
506 or (2) of this subsection, the height limit provided in such paragraphs.

507 (i)(1) A wireless provider shall comply with reasonable and nondiscriminatory  
508 requirements that prohibit communications service providers and electric service  
509 providers from installing poles in a right of way in an area designated solely for  
510 underground or buried facilities of communications service providers and electric service  
511 providers where the authority:

512 (A) Has required all such facilities other than light poles and attachments to be placed  
513 underground and all such undergrounding has been completed prior to the submission  
514 of the application, or, for rights of way where such facilities other than light poles and  
515 attachments have not been deployed, has in effect a reasonable and nondiscriminatory  
516 zoning or development ordinance or regulation that requires such facilities other than  
517 light poles and attachments to be placed underground;

518 (B) Does not prohibit the replacement of light poles or the collocation of small wireless  
519 facilities in the designated area; and

520 (C) Permits wireless providers to seek a waiver of the underground requirements for  
521 the placement of a new pole to support small wireless facilities, which waivers shall be  
522 addressed in a nondiscriminatory manner and consistent with applicable law.

523 (2) An authority that adopts undergrounding requirements shall:

524 (A) Allow a wireless provider to maintain in place any previously collocated small  
525 wireless facilities subject to any applicable pole attachment agreement; or

526 (B) Either allow the wireless provider to replace the pole associated with previously  
527 collocated small wireless facilities at the same location or propose an alternate location  
528 within 50 feet of the prior location, which the wireless provider shall use unless such  
529 alternate location imposes technical limits or significant additional costs.

530 (j) An authority shall approve an application for permitted uses described in subsection (a)  
531 of Code Section 36-66C-6 unless the requested collocation of a small wireless facility or  
532 the requested installation, modification, or replacement of a pole or decorative pole:

- 533 (1) Interferes with the operation of traffic control equipment;
- 534 (2) Interferes with sight lines or clear zones for transportation or pedestrians;
- 535 (3) Fails to comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Section  
536 12101, et seq., or similar laws of general applicability regarding pedestrian access or  
537 movement;
- 538 (4) Requests that ground-mounted small wireless facility equipment be located more than  
539 7.5 feet in radial circumference from the base of the pole, decorative pole, or support  
540 structure to which the small wireless facility antenna would be attached, provided that the  
541 authority shall not deny the application if a greater distance from the base of the pole,  
542 decorative pole, or support structure is necessary to avoid interfering with sight lines or  
543 clear zones for transportation or pedestrians or to otherwise protect public safety;
- 544 (5) Fails to comply with applicable codes;
- 545 (6) Fails to comply with the maximum limitations set forth in subsection (h) of this Code  
546 section;
- 547 (7) With respect to an application to install a pole or decorative pole, interferes with the  
548 widening, repair, reconstruction, or relocation of a public road or highway by an authority  
549 or the Department of Transportation that has been advertised for bid and scheduled for  
550 completion within six months after the application is filed;
- 551 (8) With respect to an application to install a pole or decorative pole, interferes with a  
552 public works construction project governed by Chapter 91 of Title 36 and scheduled for  
553 completion within six months after the application is filed;
- 554 (9) Fails to comply with Code Section 36-66C-10, 36-66C-11, or 36-66C-12;
- 555 (10) Fails to comply with laws of general applicability that address pedestrian and  
556 vehicular traffic and safety requirements; or
- 557 (11) Fails to comply with laws of general applicability that address the occupancy or  
558 management of the right of way and that are not otherwise inconsistent with this chapter.

559 (k)(1) A permit from the authority authorizes an applicant to undertake only certain  
560 activities in accordance with this chapter and shall not create a property right or grant  
561 authorization or license to the applicant to impinge upon the rights of other persons that  
562 may already have an interest in the right of way.

- 563 (2) Collocation, installation, modification, or replacement for which a permit is issued  
564 under this chapter shall be completed within six months after issuance, provided that an  
565 extension shall be granted for up to an additional six months upon written request made  
566 to the authority before the end of the initial six-month period if a delay results from



567 circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the applicant. Issuance of a permit  
568 authorizes the applicant to:

569 (A) Undertake the collocation, installation, modification, or replacement approved by  
570 the permit; and

571 (B) Operate and maintain the small wireless facilities and any associated pole covered  
572 by the permit for a period of not less than ten years, which shall be renewed for  
573 equivalent durations so long as the applicant is in compliance with the criteria set forth  
574 in subsection (j) of this Code section, subject to the relocation requirements described  
575 in subsection (l) of this Code section and the applicant's right to terminate at any time.

576 (l) If, in the reasonable exercise of police powers, an authority requires widening, repair,  
577 reconstruction, or relocation of a public road or highway, or relocation of poles, support  
578 structures, or small wireless facilities is required as a result of a public project, a wireless  
579 provider shall relocate poles and support structures that such wireless provider has installed  
580 in the right of way for the collocation of small wireless facilities pursuant to this chapter  
581 at no cost to the authority in the event that such poles and support structures are found by  
582 the authority to unreasonably interfere with the widening, repair, reconstruction, or  
583 relocation project or the public project. If widening, repair, reconstruction, or relocation  
584 is required as a condition or result of a project by a person other than an authority, such  
585 person shall bear the cost of relocating such poles or support structures. The wireless  
586 provider shall relocate the poles or support structures:

587 (1) By the date designated in a written notice from the authority that contains a good  
588 faith estimate by the authority of the date by which the authority intends to commence  
589 work, whenever the authority has determined that such removal, relocation, change, or  
590 alteration is reasonably necessary for the construction, repair, maintenance, or installation  
591 of any authority improvement or operations in or upon the right of way so long as the  
592 same time frames are applied to all utilities in the right of way; provided, however, that  
593 the date designated for relocation shall be at least 45 days after the authority provides the  
594 written notice to the wireless provider; or

595 (2) Within the time frame that the wireless provider estimates in good faith is reasonably  
596 needed to complete the relocation, so long as the wireless provider provides the authority  
597 written notice of its good faith estimate within 30 days following receipt of the written  
598 notice provided by the authority pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection and explains  
599 in detail why such wireless provider cannot reasonably complete the relocation by the  
600 date designated in the authority's written notice.

601 (m)(1) The wireless provider shall reasonably cooperate with the authority to carry out  
602 reconditioning work activities in a manner that minimizes interference with the wireless  
603 provider's approved use of the facility.

604 (2) The authority shall use reasonable efforts to provide the wireless provider with  
605 written notice of reconditioning work at least 120 days before such reconditioning work  
606 begins. Upon receiving such notice, it shall be the wireless provider's sole responsibility  
607 to provide adequate measures to cover, remove, or otherwise protect the wireless  
608 provider's communications facility from the consequences of the reconditioning work,  
609 including but not limited to paint and debris fallout. The authority reserves the right to  
610 require the wireless provider to remove all of the wireless provider's communications  
611 facilities from the authority pole and surrounding premises during reconditioning work,  
612 provided that the requirement to remove such is contained in the written notice required  
613 by this Code section. All costs associated with the protection measures, including  
614 temporary removal, shall be the sole responsibility of the wireless provider. If the  
615 authority fails in good faith to give notice within at least 120 days, it shall not affect the  
616 authority's rights under this subsection. In all cases, as much notice as possible shall be  
617 provided, but less than 30 days' notice shall be prohibited. The authority shall provide  
618 the wireless provider with a date by which its equipment must be protected or removed.  
619 (3) The wireless provider may request a modification of the authority procedures for  
620 carrying out reconditioning work in order to reduce interference with the wireless  
621 provider's operation of its communications facility. If the authority agrees to the  
622 modification, the wireless provider shall be responsible for all reasonable incremental  
623 costs related to the modification.  
624 (4) The authority shall provide the wireless provider with at least 120 days written notice  
625 of any replacement work before the authority may remove the wireless provider's  
626 communications facilities. The authority shall also promptly notify the wireless provider  
627 when the authority poles have been replaced and the wireless provider can reinstall its  
628 equipment. During the replacement work, the wireless provider may maintain a  
629 temporary communications facility on the property, or after approval by an authority on  
630 any land owned or controlled by an authority in the vicinity of the property. If the  
631 property will not accommodate the wireless provider's temporary communications facility  
632 or if the parties cannot agree on a temporary location, the wireless provider, at its sole  
633 discretion, shall have the right to suspend the applicable permit until the replacement pole  
634 is installed, upon 30 days' written notice to the authority.  
635 (n) For any collocation on authority poles in the right of way, the authority shall provide  
636 a good faith estimate for any make-ready work necessary to enable the authority pole to  
637 support the proposed facility, including replacement of the pole if necessary, within 60  
638 days after receipt of a completed application requesting attachment to the authority pole.  
639 Alternatively, the authority may require the wireless provider to perform the make-ready  
640 work and notify the wireless provider of such within the 60 day period. If the wireless

641 provider or its contractor performs the make-ready work, the wireless provider shall  
642 indemnify the authority for any negligence by the wireless provider or its contractor in the  
643 performance of such make-ready work, the work shall not be deemed to violate Chapter 91  
644 of this title, and the work shall otherwise comply with applicable law. If the authority opts  
645 to perform the make-ready work itself, the authority shall complete the work, including any  
646 pole replacement, within 90 days of receipt of written acceptance of the good faith estimate  
647 by the wireless provider. Such acceptance shall be signified by payment via check or other  
648 commercially reasonable and customary means specified by the authority. The authority  
649 may require that the replacement authority pole have the same functionality as the pole  
650 being replaced. If the authority pole is replaced, the authority shall operate authority  
651 fixtures on the pole, and, absent an agreement to the contrary between the authority and the  
652 wireless provider that is confirmed in writing, the authority shall take ownership of the new  
653 pole.

654 (o) If the wireless provider fails to relocate a support structure or pole or fails to provide  
655 a written good faith estimate of the time needed to relocate a support structure or pole  
656 within the time period prescribed in subsection (l) of this Code section, the authority shall  
657 have the right and privilege, ten days or more after the wireless provider receives written  
658 notice from the authority, to cut power to or move any support structure or pole located  
659 within the right of way, as the authority may determine to be necessary, appropriate, or  
660 useful in order to commence work on the public project.

661 (p)(1) If a wireless provider decides to abandon any small wireless facility, support  
662 structure, or pole, it shall notify the authority in writing as soon as practicable, but no  
663 later than 30 days prior to the abandonment. Following receipt of such notice, the  
664 authority shall instruct the wireless provider in writing to remove all or any portion of the  
665 small wireless facility, support structure, or pole if the authority determines that such  
666 removal will be in the best interest of public safety and welfare. If the wireless provider  
667 fails to remove the abandoned small wireless facility, support structure, or pole within 90  
668 days after such notice, the authority may do so and recover the actual and reasonable  
669 expenses of doing so from the wireless provider, its successors, or its assigns, plus a  
670 penalty not to exceed \$500.00. The authority may suspend the ability of the wireless  
671 provider, its successors, or its assigns, as applicable, to receive any new permits from the  
672 authority until the wireless provider, its successors, or its assigns, as applicable, have paid  
673 the amount assessed for such removal costs and the penalty assessed, if any; provided,  
674 however, that the authority shall not suspend such ability of any applicant that has  
675 deposited the amount in controversy in escrow pending an adjudication of the merits of  
676 the dispute by a court of competent jurisdiction. Nothing in this chapter precludes an  
677 authority from adopting reasonable and nondiscriminatory requirements that are not

678 inconsistent with this subsection with respect to the removal of abandoned small wireless  
679 facilities, support structures, or poles.

680 (2) A small wireless facility that is not operated or a support structure or pole that is not  
681 utilized for a continuous period of 12 months shall be considered abandoned, and the  
682 owner of such small wireless facility, support structure, or pole shall remove such within  
683 90 days after receipt of written notice from the authority notifying such owner of such  
684 small wireless facility, support structure, or pole of the abandonment. The authority shall  
685 send the notice by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to such owner at  
686 the last known address of such owner of the small wireless facility, support structure, or  
687 pole. If the owner does not provide written notice that the small wireless facility has not  
688 been out of operation or the support structure or pole has in fact been utilized for a  
689 continuous period of 12 months or does not remove such small wireless facility, support  
690 structure, or pole within the 90 day period, the authority may remove or cause the  
691 removal of such small wireless facility, support structure, or pole pursuant to the terms  
692 of its support structure or pole attachment agreement for authority poles or through  
693 actions provided for abatement of nuisances or by other law for removal and cost  
694 recovery.

695 (q) If the authority determines that a wireless provider's activity in a right of way  
696 pursuant to this chapter creates an imminent risk to public safety, the authority may  
697 provide written notice to the wireless provider and demand that the wireless provider  
698 address such risk. If the wireless provider fails to reasonably address the risk within 24  
699 hours of the written notice, the authority may take or cause to be taken action to  
700 reasonably address such risk and charge the wireless provider the reasonable documented  
701 cost of such actions.

702 (r) The authority may require a wireless provider to repair all damage to a right of way  
703 directly caused by the activities of the wireless provider, while occupying, installing,  
704 repairing, or maintaining small wireless facilities, poles, or support structures, in such  
705 right of way and to restore the right of way to its condition before the damage occurred  
706 pursuant to the competitively neutral and reasonable requirements and specifications of  
707 the authority. If the wireless provider fails to return the right of way, to the extent  
708 practicable in the reasonable judgment of the authority, to its condition prior to the  
709 damage within 90 days of receipt of written notice from the authority, the authority may,  
710 at the sole discretion of the authority, restore the right of way to such condition and  
711 charge the wireless provider its reasonable, documented cost of doing so, plus a penalty  
712 not to exceed \$500.00. The authority may suspend the ability of the wireless provider to  
713 receive any new permits from the authority until the wireless provider has paid the  
714 amount assessed for such restoration costs and the penalty assessed, if any; provided,

715 however, that the authority shall not suspend such ability of any applicant that has  
 716 deposited the amount in controversy in escrow pending an adjudication of the merits of  
 717 the dispute by a court of competent jurisdiction.

718 (s) An authority shall send any notice or decision required by this Code section by  
 719 registered or certified mail, statutory overnight delivery, hand delivery, or email  
 720 transmission. The decision or notice shall be deemed delivered upon email transmission,  
 721 deposit into overnight mail or regular mail receptacle with adequate postage paid, or  
 722 actual receipt if delivered by hand.

723 36-66C-8.

724 Applications for any other uses that are not expressly set forth or referenced in  
 725 subsection (a) of Code Section 36-66C-6 or that are not otherwise addressed by this chapter  
 726 shall require compliance with, and issuance of a permit under, applicable law. Without  
 727 limiting the foregoing, any modification, maintenance, repair, or replacement that is not set  
 728 forth in subsections (e) and (f) of Code Section 36-66C-6 or that is not eligible for  
 729 administrative review under Code Section 36-66C-7 shall require compliance with, and  
 730 issuance of a permit under, applicable law.

731 36-66C-9.

732 (a) An applicant in the right of way shall employ due care during the installation and  
 733 maintenance process and shall comply with all safety and right of way protection  
 734 requirements of general applicability set forth in applicable law.

735 (b) An applicant in the right of way shall not place any small wireless facilities, support  
 736 structures, poles, or decorative poles where they will interfere with any existing  
 737 infrastructure or equipment and shall locate its lines and equipment in such a manner as not  
 738 to interfere unnecessarily with the usual vehicular or pedestrian traffic patterns or with the  
 739 rights or reasonable convenience of owners of property that abuts any right of way.

740 36-66C-10.

741 Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, within a historic district, an  
 742 applicant may collocate a small wireless facility and may place or replace a pole, only upon  
 743 satisfaction of the following:

744 (1) The issuance of a permit under subsection (a) of Code Section 36-66C-6; and  
 745 (2)(A) Compliance with any objective, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory aesthetic and  
 746 structural requirements that have been made publicly available in writing by the  
 747 authority at least 30 days prior to submission of the application; provided, however, that  
 748 any such requirements may not have the effect of materially inhibiting any wireless

749 provider's technology or service, and compliance with any such requirements shall not  
 750 be considered a part of the small wireless facility for purposes of the size restrictions  
 751 in the definition of small wireless facility; or

752 (B) In the absence of any such requirements, a replacement pole shall be substantially  
 753 similar in height and appearance to the pole being replaced.

754 36-66C-11.

755 For applications for new poles in the right of way in areas zoned for residential use, the  
 756 authority may propose an alternate location in the right of way within 100 feet of the  
 757 location set forth in the application, and the wireless provider shall use the authority's  
 758 proposed alternate location unless the location imposes technical limits or significant  
 759 additional costs. The wireless provider shall certify that it has made such a determination  
 760 in good faith, based on the assessment of a licensed engineer, and it shall provide a written  
 761 summary of the basis for such determination.

762 36-66C-12.

763 Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, an applicant may collocate  
 764 a small wireless facility on a decorative pole, or may replace a decorative pole with a new  
 765 decorative pole, in the event the existing decorative pole will not structurally support the  
 766 attachment, only upon satisfaction of the following:

767 (1) The issuance of a permit under subsection (a) of Code Section 36-66C-6; and

768 (2)(A) Compliance with any objective and reasonable aesthetic and structural  
 769 requirements that have been made publicly available in writing by the authority at least  
 770 30 days prior to submission of the application; provided, however, that any such  
 771 requirements shall not have the effect of materially inhibiting any wireless provider's  
 772 technology or service, and compliance with any such requirements shall not be  
 773 considered a part of the small wireless facility for purposes of the size restrictions in the  
 774 definition of small wireless facility; or

775 (B) In the absence of any such requirements, a replacement decorative pole shall be  
 776 substantially similar in height and appearance to the decorative pole being replaced.

777 The authority shall operate authority fixtures on the replaced decorative pole, and, absent  
 778 an agreement to the contrary between the authority and the wireless provider that is  
 779 confirmed by email or other writing, the authority shall take ownership of the new  
 780 decorative pole.

781 36-66C-13.

782 (a) An applicant may submit a single consolidated application, provided that such a  
783 consolidated application shall be for a geographic area no more than two miles in diameter  
784 and shall comply with this Code section. The denial of one or more small wireless  
785 facilities or poles in a consolidated application shall not delay the processing of any other  
786 small wireless facilities or poles in the same application. An authority may issue a single  
787 permit or multiple permits for the small wireless facilities and poles in a consolidated  
788 application.

789 (b) In a Class I Authority:

790 (1) A consolidated application for the placement of new poles and the collocation of one  
791 or more small wireless facilities on such new poles may include no more than ten poles  
792 and any associated small wireless facilities. While an applicant has applications,  
793 including consolidated applications, pending before the Class I Authority for review of  
794 25 or more new poles and the collocation of associated small wireless facilities, the Class  
795 I Authority may, but shall not be required to, toll the processing requirements under Code  
796 Section 36-66C-7 for any application subsequently submitted by the same applicant for  
797 the placement of new poles and the collocation of associated small wireless facilities.  
798 The number of new poles with collocated small wireless facilities pending for review  
799 before the Class I Authority that may toll the processing requirements for subsequent  
800 applications pursuant to this paragraph shall increase to 30, effective July 1, 2020; to 35,  
801 effective July 1, 2021; to 40, effective July 1, 2022; to 45, effective July 1, 2023; and to  
802 50, effective July 1, 2024; and

803 (2) A consolidated application for the collocation of small wireless facilities on existing  
804 poles or support structures may include no more than 20 sites. While an applicant has  
805 applications, including consolidated applications, pending before the Class I Authority  
806 for review of 70 or more sites for the collocation of small wireless facilities on existing  
807 poles or support structures, the Class I Authority may, but shall not be required to, toll  
808 the processing requirements under Code Section 36-66C-7 for any application  
809 subsequently submitted by the same applicant for the collocation of small wireless  
810 facilities on existing poles or support structures. The number of sites for the collocation  
811 of small wireless facilities pending for review before the Class I Authority that may toll  
812 the processing requirements for subsequent applications pursuant to this subparagraph  
813 shall increase to 80, effective July 1, 2020; to 90, effective July 1, 2021; to 100, effective  
814 July 1, 2022; to 110, effective July 1, 2023; and to 120, effective July 1, 2024.

815 (c) In a Class II Authority:

816 (1) A consolidated application for the placement of new poles and the collocation of one  
817 or more small wireless facilities on such new poles may include no more than five poles

818 and any associated small wireless facilities. While an applicant has applications,  
819 including consolidated applications, pending before the Class II Authority for review of  
820 15 or more new poles and the collocation of associated small wireless facilities, the Class  
821 II Authority may, but shall not be required to, toll the processing requirements under  
822 Code Section 36-66C-7 for any application subsequently submitted by the same applicant  
823 for the placement of new poles and the collocation of associated small wireless facilities;  
824 and

825 (2) A consolidated application for the collocation of small wireless facilities on existing  
826 poles or support structures may include no more than 15 sites. While an applicant has  
827 applications, including consolidated applications, pending before the Class II Authority  
828 for review of 45 or more sites for the collocation of small wireless facilities on existing  
829 poles or support structures, the Class II Authority may toll the processing requirements  
830 under Code Section 36-66C-7 for any application subsequently submitted by the same  
831 applicant for the collocation of small wireless facilities on existing poles or support  
832 structures.

833 (d) In a Class III Authority:

834 (1) A consolidated application for the placement of new poles and the collocation of one  
835 or more small wireless facilities on such new poles may include no more than two poles  
836 and any associated small wireless facilities. While an applicant has applications,  
837 including consolidated applications, pending before the Class III Authority for review of  
838 eight or more new poles and the collocation of associated small wireless facilities, the  
839 Class III Authority may, but shall not be required to, toll the processing requirements  
840 under Code Section 36-66C-7 for any application subsequently submitted by the same  
841 applicant for the placement of new poles and the collocation of associated small wireless  
842 facilities; and

843 (2) A consolidated application for the collocation of small wireless facilities on existing  
844 poles or support structures may include no more than six sites. While an applicant has  
845 applications, including consolidated applications, pending before the Class III Authority  
846 for review of 24 or more sites for the collocation of small wireless facilities on existing  
847 poles or support structures, the Class III Authority may, but shall not be required to, toll  
848 the processing requirements under Code Section 36-66C-7 for any application  
849 subsequently submitted by the same applicant for the collocation of small wireless  
850 facilities on existing poles or support structures.

851 (e) For purposes of subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this Code section:

852 (1) Small wireless facilities and poles that a wireless services provider applicant has  
853 requested a third party to deploy and that are included in a pending application by the



854 third party shall be counted as pending requests by the wireless services provider  
855 applicant; and

856 (2) When the processing of an application is tolled pursuant to subsection (b), (c), or (d),  
857 the application is no longer counted as pending. As processing of applications is  
858 completed, the authority shall begin processing previously tolled applications in the order  
859 in which they were submitted, unless the applicant specifies a different order.

860 36-66C-14.

861 If multiple applications are received by the authority to install two or more poles or  
862 decorative poles at the same location or to collocate two or more small wireless facilities  
863 on the same pole, decorative pole, or support structure, the authority shall resolve  
864 conflicting requests in an appropriate, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory manner.

865 36-66C-15.

866 (a) An authority shall not require a wireless provider to indemnify and hold the authority  
867 and its officers and employees harmless against any claims, lawsuits, judgments, costs,  
868 liens, losses, expenses, or fees arising from the wireless provider's activities in the public  
869 right of way under this chapter, except when a court of competent jurisdiction has found  
870 that the negligence of the wireless provider while conducting such activities caused the  
871 harm that resulted in such claims, lawsuits, judgments, costs, liens, losses, expenses, or fees  
872 or to require a wireless provider to obtain insurance naming the authority or its officers and  
873 employees an additional insured against any of the foregoing.

874 (b) In no event shall any authority or any officer, employee, or agent affiliated therewith,  
875 while in the performance of its or his or her official duties, be liable for any claim related  
876 to the siting, installation, maintenance, repair, replacement, relocation, permitting, or  
877 location of wireless equipment, facilities, poles, or infrastructure, including, but not limited  
878 to, any claim for destruction, damage, business interruption, or signal interference with  
879 other communications service providers wherein such siting, installation, maintenance,  
880 repair, replacement, relocation, permitting, or location was undertaken in substantial  
881 compliance with this chapter.

882 36-66C-16.

883 Absent an agreement to the contrary that is made public and that is available for adoption  
884 upon the same terms and conditions to any requesting wireless provider, an authority shall  
885 not require an applicant to perform services unrelated to the collocation for which approval  
886 is sought, such as in-kind contributions to the authority, including reserving fiber, conduit,  
887 or space on a utility pole or a wireless support structure for the authority, and such

888 authority may not require an applicant to transfer small wireless facilities or wireless  
889 support structures to the authority, provided that the authority may require transfer of an  
890 authority pole replaced by the applicant to accommodate its collocation.

891 36-66C-17.

892 If an authority and a wireless provider entered into an agreement addressing the subject  
893 matter of this chapter prior to October 1, 2019:

894 (1) This chapter shall not apply until such agreement expires or is terminated pursuant  
895 to its terms with regard to poles, decorative poles, support structures, replacement poles,  
896 and small wireless facilities installed pursuant to such agreement prior to October 1,  
897 2019; and

898 (2) Otherwise, the provisions of this chapter shall apply to poles, decorative poles,  
899 support structures, replacement poles, and small wireless facilities installed on or after  
900 October 1, 2019.

901 36-66C-18.

902 Except to the extent authorized by current or future federal law, nothing in this chapter  
903 shall authorize this state or any political subdivision thereof, including, but not limited to,  
904 an authority, to require small wireless facility deployment or to regulate wireless services.

905 36-66C-19.

906 In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this chapter and the provisions of  
907 Chapter 66B of this title, this chapter shall control as to the collocation of small wireless  
908 facilities and the construction, installation, maintenance, modification, operation, and  
909 replacement of poles or support structures by wireless providers in the right of way.

910 36-66C-20.

911 (a) The construction, installation, maintenance, modification, operation, and replacement  
912 of wireline backhaul facilities in the right of way are not addressed by this chapter, and any  
913 such activity shall comply with Code Section 46-5-1, Chapter 76 of this title, and other  
914 applicable law.

915 (b) The approval of the installation, placement, maintenance, or operation of a small  
916 wireless facility pursuant to this chapter shall not authorize the provision of any  
917 communications services.

918 (c) Except as provided in this chapter or otherwise expressly authorized by state or federal  
919 law, an authority shall not adopt or enforce any ordinances, regulations, or requirements  
920 as to the placement or operation of communications facilities in a right of way by a

921 communications services provider authorized by state or local law to operate in a right of  
922 way, regulate any communications services, or impose or collect any tax, fee, or charge for  
923 the provision of communications services over the communications services provider's  
924 communications facilities in a right of way.

925 (d) This chapter shall not apply to an authority to the extent that such authority uses  
926 communications facilities to provide free Wi-Fi services to the public.

927 36-66C-21.

928 Nothing in this chapter relieves any person of any duties set forth in Chapter 9 of Title 25."

929 **SECTION 2.**

930 (a) Code Sections 36-66C-1, 36-66C-2, and 36-66C-3 of this Act shall become effective  
931 upon this Act's approval by the Governor or upon this Act becoming law without such  
932 approval.

933 (b) Except as provided for in subsection (a) of this section, this Act shall become effective  
934 on October 1, 2019.

935 **SECTION 3.**

936 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.