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2 92nd General Assembly  
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4

As Engrossed: H3/26/19

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1874

5 By: Representatives A. Davis, Love, Lynch  
6 By: Senator J. Dismang  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY  
10 DEPLOYMENT ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

### Subtitle

14 TO ESTABLISH THE SMALL WIRELESS FACILITY  
15 DEPLOYMENT ACT.  
16

17  
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 17, is amended to add an  
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:

22 Subchapter 5 – Small Wireless Facility Deployment Act  
23

24 23-17-501. Legislative findings and intent.

25 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

26 (1) The deployment of small wireless facilities and other next-  
27 generation wireless and broadband network facilities is a matter of federal  
28 and statewide concern and interest;

29 (2) Wireless and broadband products and services are a  
30 significant and continually growing part of the state economy, and  
31 accordingly, encouraging the development of strong and robust wireless and  
32 broadband communications networks throughout the state is integral to the  
33 state's economic competitiveness;

34 (3) Rapid deployment of small wireless facilities will serve  
35 numerous important statewide goals and public policy of:

36 (A) Meeting growing consumer demand for wireless data;



1 (B) Increasing competitive options for communications  
2 services available to the state's residents; and

3 (C) Promoting the ability of the state's citizens to  
4 communicate with other citizens and with their state and municipalities, and  
5 promoting public safety;

6 (4) Small wireless facilities, including facilities commonly  
7 referred to as "small cells" and distributed antenna systems often are  
8 deployed most effectively in a public right-of-way;

9 (5) To meet the key objectives of this subchapter and federal  
10 law, wireless service providers must have access to public rights-of-way and  
11 the ability to attach to infrastructure located in public rights-of-way to  
12 increase the density of the wireless service provider's networks and provide  
13 next generation wireless services;

14 (6) Rates and fees for the permitting and deployment of small  
15 wireless facilities in public rights-of-way and on authority infrastructure,  
16 including poles, throughout the state, consistent with federal law, is  
17 reasonable and will encourage the deployment of robust next-generation  
18 wireless and broadband networks for the benefit of citizens throughout the  
19 state;

20 (7) The procedures, rates, and fees in this subchapter are:

21 (A) Consistent with federal law and multiple ordinances  
22 adopted by municipalities throughout the state;

23 (B) Fair and reasonable when viewed from the perspective  
24 of the state's citizens and the state's interest in having robust, reliable,  
25 and technologically advanced wireless and broadband networks; and

26 (C) Reflective of a balancing of the interests of the  
27 wireless providers deploying new facilities and the interests of authorities  
28 in recovering their costs of managing access to the public rights-of-way and  
29 the attachment space provided on authority infrastructure in the public  
30 rights-of-way;

31 (8) Municipalities are the custodians of public rights-of-way,  
32 and public property within the public rights-of-way, within the limits of  
33 their respective jurisdictions;

34 (9) Municipalities may adopt ordinances and regulations  
35 governing the use, construction, development, and appearance of public and  
36 private property within their respective jurisdictions; and

1           (10) Municipalities recognize the economic and social value of  
2 data connectivity and desire to encourage wireless infrastructure investment  
3 by providing a fair and predictable process for the deployment of small  
4 wireless facilities within the public rights-of-way in a manner that is:

5                   (A) Safe;

6                   (B) Compatible with and complementary to the provision of  
7 services by the municipality and others lawfully using the rights-of-way; and

8                   (C) Consistent with the aesthetic standards of the  
9 municipality.

10           (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the operation of  
11 small wireless facilities are matters of statewide concern and interest.

12  
13           23-17-502. Title.

14           This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Small Wireless  
15 Facility Deployment Act".

16  
17           23-17-503. Definitions.

18           As used in this subchapter:

19                   (1) "Affiliate" means an entity that directly or indirectly  
20 controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another party;

21                   (2) "Antenna" means communications equipment that transmits or  
22 receives an electromagnetic radio frequency signal in the provision of  
23 wireless service;

24                   (3)(A) "Antenna equipment" means equipment, switches, wiring,  
25 cabling, power sources, shelters, or cabinets associated with an antenna,  
26 located at the same fixed location as the antenna, and when collocated on a  
27 structure is mounted or installed at the same time as the antenna.

28                   (B) "Antenna equipment" does not include:

29                           (i) The structure or improvements on, under, or  
30 within which the equipment is collocated; or

31                           (ii) Wireline backhaul facilities, coaxial or fiber  
32 optic cable that is between structures, or coaxial or fiber optic cable that  
33 is otherwise not immediately adjacent to or directly associated with an  
34 antenna;

35                   (4) "Antenna facility" means an antenna and associated antenna  
36 equipment;

1           (5) "Applicable codes" means uniform electrical reliability,  
2 building, fire, electrical, plumbing, or mechanical codes, as adopted by a  
3 recognized national code organization, or local amendments to the codes that  
4 are of general application, or local ordinances that are of general  
5 application, that address public health, safety, or welfare and are  
6 consistent with this subchapter;

7           (6) "Applicant" means a person who submits an application as or  
8 on behalf of a wireless provider;

9           (7) "Application" means a request submitted by an applicant to  
10 an authority for a permit:

11                   (A) To collocate small wireless facilities; or

12                   (B) To install, modify, or replace a pole on which a small  
13 wireless facility is or will be collocated, in the right-of-way;

14           (8)(A) "Authority" means a county, a municipality, a  
15 subdivision, or instrumentality thereof, including without limitation:

16                           (i) A public utility district;

17                           (ii) An irrigation district; or

18                           (iii) A municipal electric utility.

19                   (B) "Authority" does not include a state court having  
20 jurisdiction over an authority;

21           (9) "Authority pole" means a pole owned, managed, or operated by  
22 or on behalf of an authority;

23           (10)(A) "Collocate" or "collocate on" means the placement,  
24 mounting, replacement, or modification of a small wireless facility on, or of  
25 ground-mounted antenna equipment adjacent to, a structure.

26                   (B) "Collocate" or "collocate on" includes collocated  
27 ground-mounted antenna equipment as a small wireless facility if it meets the  
28 requirements of § 23-17-503(25)(A)(iii)-(vi) and the associated facilities on  
29 the adjacent structure meet the requirements of § 23-17-503(25)(i)-(vi);

30           (11) "Communications service" means:

31                   (A) A cable service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 522(6), as  
32 it existed on January 1, 2019;

33                   (B) A telecommunications service, as defined in 47 U.S.C.  
34 § 153(53), as it existed on January 1, 2019;

35                   (C) An information service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. §  
36 153(24), as it existed on January 1, 2019; or

- 1                   (D) Wireless service;
- 2           (12) "Communications service provider" means:
- 3                   (A) A cable operator, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 522(5), as  
4 it existed on January 1, 2019;
- 5                   (B) A provider of information service, as defined in 47  
6 U.S.C. § 153(24), as it existed on January 1, 2019;
- 7                   (C) A telecommunications carrier, as defined in 47 U.S.C.  
8 § 153(51); or
- 9                   (D) A wireless provider;
- 10          (13) "Control" means the direct or indirect:
- 11                   (A) Ownership of at least fifty percent (50%) of the  
12 equity;
- 13                   (B) Ability to direct at least fifty percent (50%) of  
14 voting power; or
- 15                   (C) Ability otherwise to direct management policies;
- 16          (14) "Controlled-access facility" means a highway or street  
17 described in § 27-68-102;
- 18          (15) "Decorative pole" means an authority pole that is  
19 specifically designed and placed for aesthetic purposes and on which limited  
20 appurtenances or attachments, such as a small wireless facility, lighting,  
21 specially designed informational or directional signage, or temporary holiday  
22 or special event attachments, have been placed or are permitted to be placed  
23 according to nondiscriminatory authority rules or codes;
- 24          (16) "Facility" means an antenna facility or a structure that is  
25 used for the provision of wireless service;
- 26          (17) "Fee" means a one-time, nonrecurring charge;
- 27          (18) "Historic district" means a group of buildings, properties,  
28 or sites that are either:
- 29                   (A) Listed in the National Register of Historic Places or  
30 formally determined eligible for listing by the Keeper of the National  
31 Register of Historic Places, according to Section VI.D.1.a.i-v of the  
32 Nationwide Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Section 106 National Historic  
33 Preservation Act Review Process, 47 C.F.R. Part 1, Appendix C, as it existed  
34 on January 1, 2019;
- 35                   (B) A historic district designated under the Historic  
36 Districts Act, § 14-172-201 et seq.; or

1                   (C) A historic district otherwise designated under a local  
2 ordinance as of January 1, 2019;

3                   (19) "Micro-wireless facility" means a wireless facility that:

4                   (A) Is not larger in dimension than twenty-four inches  
5 (24") in length, fifteen inches (15") in width, and twelve inches (12") in  
6 height;

7                   (B) Has an exterior antenna that is no longer than eleven  
8 inches (11"); and

9                   (C) Is not placed any farther than ten feet (10') down the  
10 span as measured from the side of the pole;

11                   (20) "Permit" means an authorization, written or otherwise,  
12 required by an authority to perform an action or initiate, continue, or  
13 complete a project for the deployment of wireless service at a specified  
14 location;

15                   (21) "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited  
16 liability company, partnership, association, trust, authority, or other  
17 entity or organization;

18                   (22)(A) "Pole" means a pole in a right-of-way that may be used  
19 by or for wireline communications, electric distribution, lighting, traffic  
20 control, signage, or a similar function, or for collocation of small wireless  
21 facilities.

22                   (B) "Pole" does not include a wireless support structure  
23 or an electric transmission structure;

24                   (23) "Rate" means a recurring charge;

25                   (24)(A) "Right-of-way" means an area on, below, or above a  
26 public utility easement, roadway, highway, street, sidewalk, alley, or  
27 similar property.

28                   (B) "Right-of-way" does not include a federal interstate  
29 highway, controlled-access facility, or a public utility easement that does  
30 not authorize the deployment sought by the wireless provider;

31                   (25)(A) "Small wireless facility" means a wireless facility that  
32 meets all of the following specifications:

33                   (i) The facility:

34                   (a) Is mounted on a structure fifty feet (50')  
35 or less in height, including the antennas;

36                   (b) Is mounted on a structure no more than ten

1 percent (10%) taller than other adjacent structures; or

2 (c) Does not extend an existing structure on  
3 which it is located to a height of more than fifty feet (50') or by more than  
4 ten percent (10%), whichever is greater;

5 (ii) Each antenna associated with the deployment,  
6 excluding associated antenna equipment, is no more than three cubic feet (3  
7 cu. ft.) in volume;

8 (iii) All other wireless equipment associated with  
9 the structure, including the wireless equipment associated with the antenna  
10 and any preexisting associated equipment on the structure, is no more than  
11 twenty-eight cubic feet (28 cu. ft.) in volume;

12 (iv) The facility does not require antenna structure  
13 registration under 47 C.F.R. Part 17, as it existed on January 1, 2019;

14 (v) The facility is not located on tribal lands, as  
15 defined in 36 C.F.R. 800.16(x), as it existed on January 1, 2019; and

16 (vi) The facility does not result in human exposure  
17 to radio frequency in excess of the applicable safety standards specified in  
18 47 C.F.R. 1.1307(b), as it existed on January 1, 2019.

19 (B) "Small wireless facility" does not include:

20 (i) The structure or improvements on, under, or  
21 within which the equipment is located or collocated or to which the equipment  
22 is attached; and

23 (ii) Any wireline backhaul facility or coaxial or  
24 fiber optic cable that is between wireless support structures or utility  
25 poles, or that is otherwise not immediately adjacent to or directly  
26 associated with a particular antenna;

27 (26) "Structure" means a pole or wireless support structure,  
28 whether or not it has an existing antenna facility, that is used or to be  
29 used for the provision of wireless service;

30 (27) "Technically feasible" means that by virtue of engineering  
31 or spectrum usage the proposed placement for a small wireless facility, or  
32 its design, concealment measures, or site location, can be implemented  
33 without a material reduction in the functionality of the small wireless  
34 facility;

35 (28) "Wireless infrastructure provider" means a person or an  
36 affiliate thereof, including a person authorized to provide communications

1 service in the state, that builds or installs facilities for the provision of  
2 wireless service, but that is not a wireless service provider;

3 (29) "Wireless provider" means a wireless infrastructure  
4 provider or a wireless service provider;

5 (30) "Wireless service" means any service using licensed or  
6 unlicensed spectrum, including the use of Wi-Fi, whether at a fixed location  
7 or mobile, provided to the public;

8 (31) "Wireless service provider" means a person who provides  
9 wireless service;

10 (32)(A) "Wireless support structure" means a structure,  
11 including:

12 (i) A monopole;

13 (ii) A tower, either guyed or self-supporting;

14 (iii) A billboard;

15 (iv) A building; or

16 (v) Any other existing or proposed structure  
17 designed to support or that is capable of supporting small wireless  
18 facilities, other than a structure designed solely for the collocation of  
19 small wireless facilities.

20 (B) "Wireless support structure" does not include a pole;  
21 and

22 (33) "Wireline backhaul facility" means an aboveground or  
23 underground facility used to transport communications services from a  
24 wireless facility to a network.

25  
26 23-17-504. Exclusive arrangements.

27 An authority shall not enter into an exclusive arrangement with a  
28 person for use of the right-of-way for the collocation of small wireless  
29 facilities or the installation, operation, marketing, modification,  
30 maintenance, or replacement of poles for the collocation.

31  
32 23-17-505. Use of rights-of-way by wireless provider.

33 (a) Subject to this subchapter, a wireless provider shall have the  
34 right, as a permitted use not subject to zoning review or approval, to  
35 collocate, maintain, modify, operate, and replace small wireless facilities  
36 and to install, maintain, modify, and replace poles it owns or manages or,



1 with the permission of the owner, a third party's pole, associated with a  
2 small wireless facility, along, across, upon, and under the right-of-way.

3 (b) Small wireless facilities and associated poles shall be installed  
4 and maintained as to not obstruct or hinder the usual travel or public safety  
5 of the right-of-way or the usage of the right-of-way by utilities.

6  
7 23-17-506. Requirements – Height limits – Standards.

8 (a) Each new or modified pole installed in the right-of-way for the  
9 purpose of collocation of small wireless facilities shall not exceed the  
10 greater of:

11 (1) Fifty feet (50') in height above ground level; or

12 (2) Ten percent (10%) taller than the tallest existing pole in  
13 place in the same right-of-way as September 1, 2019, within three hundred  
14 feet (300') of the new or modified pole.

15 (b) A new small wireless facility in the right-of-way shall not extend  
16 more than ten percent (10%) above the existing structure on which it is  
17 located or fifty feet (50') above ground level, whichever is greater.

18 (c) A wireless provider shall have the right to collocate a wireless  
19 facility and install, maintain, modify, and replace a pole that exceeds the  
20 height limits required under subsection (a) of this section along, across,  
21 upon, and under the right-of-way, subject to this section and any applicable  
22 zoning regulations.

23 (d) A wireless provider shall not install a small wireless facility or  
24 pole in a historic district without complying with the requirements of  
25 general application for structures within the historic district.

26 (e) A wireless provider may replace decorative poles when necessary to  
27 deploy a small wireless facility so long as the replacement reasonably  
28 conforms to the design of the original decorative pole.

29  
30 23-17-507. Damage and repair – Replacements – Abandonment – Removal.

31 (a)(1) A wireless provider shall repair all damage to the right-of-way  
32 directly caused by the activities of the wireless provider in the right-of-  
33 way and return the right-of-way to its functional and aesthetic equivalence  
34 before the damage under the competitively neutral, reasonable requirements  
35 and specifications of the authority.

36 (2) If the wireless provider fails to make the repairs required

1 by the authority within a reasonable time after written notice, the authority  
2 may make those repairs and charge the applicable party the actual and  
3 reasonable documented cost, including overhead, of the repairs.

4 (b)(1) A wireless provider is not be required to replace or upgrade an  
5 existing pole except for reasons of structural necessity or compliance with  
6 applicable codes.

7 (2) A wireless provider may, with the permission of the pole  
8 owner, replace or modify existing poles, but any such replacement or  
9 modification shall substantially conform to the design aesthetics of the pole  
10 being modified or replaced.

11 (c)(1) A wireless provider shall notify the authority at least thirty  
12 (30) days before the wireless provider's abandonment of a small wireless  
13 facility.

14 (2) If the wireless provider fails to remove the abandoned small  
15 wireless facility within ninety (90) days after the notice, the authority may  
16 undertake the removal and recover the actual and reasonable documented cost,  
17 including overhead, of the removal from the wireless provider, or its  
18 successors or assigns.

19 (d)(1) An authority may order the removal of a small wireless facility  
20 or associated pole in the right-of-way that violates § 23-17-505, § 23-17-  
21 506, or applicable codes.

22 (2) The authority shall provide written notice of the violation  
23 to the owner of the small wireless facility at least thirty (30) days before  
24 removal to afford the owner the opportunity to conduct repairs or removal, or  
25 otherwise remedy the violation.

26 (3)(A) If the authority determines that a wireless provider's  
27 activity in a right-of-way under this subchapter creates an imminent risk to  
28 public safety, the authority may provide written notice to the wireless  
29 provider and demand that the wireless provider address the risk.

30 (B) If the wireless provider fails to reasonably address  
31 the risk within twenty-four hours of the written notice, the authority may  
32 take or cause to be taken action to reasonably address the risk and charge  
33 the wireless provider the reasonable documented cost of the actions.

34 (e)(1) A wireless provider shall not collocate a small wireless  
35 facility or install, modify, or replace a pole in the right-of-way that:

36 (A) Materially interferes with the safe operation of

1 traffic control equipment;

2 (B) Materially interferes with sight lines or clear zones  
3 for transportation or pedestrians;

4 (C) Materially interferes with compliance with the  
5 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-336, or similar  
6 federal or state standards regarding pedestrian access or movement; or

7 (D) Fails to comply with applicable codes.

8 (2)(A) For an authority that requires permits under § 23-17-510,  
9 compliance with these criteria will be determined during the permitting  
10 process.

11 (B) An authority that does not require a permit under §  
12 23-17-510 shall provide at least thirty (30) days' notice of and a reasonable  
13 opportunity to cure a violation of subdivision (e)(1) of this section.

14  
15 23-17-508. Aesthetic standards.

16 (a) An authority that has adopted an ordinance under § 14-17-209 or §  
17 14-56-416 may adopt and enforce standards that govern the aesthetic  
18 appearance of small wireless facilities and associated poles to ensure  
19 coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development, as provided in this  
20 section.

21 (b) Aesthetic standards adopted by an authority for small wireless  
22 facilities and associated poles shall meet the following requirements:

23 (1) The aesthetic standards shall be:

24 (A) Reasonable, in that they are technically feasible and  
25 reasonably directed to avoiding or remedying unsightly or out-of-character  
26 deployments;

27 (B) No more burdensome than those applied to other types  
28 of utility and communications infrastructure deployments; and

29 (C) Objective and published at least ninety (90) days in  
30 advance of the filing of an application under this subchapter;

31 (2) Any design or concealment measures are not considered a part  
32 of the small wireless facility for purposes of the size parameters in the  
33 definition of "small wireless facility"; and

34 (3) An authority may deny an application for not complying with  
35 aesthetic requirements only if the authority finds that the denial does not  
36 prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the provision of wireless service.

1 (c) An authority may prohibit wireless providers from installing poles  
2 in the right-of-way in areas where the authority has required that all  
3 communications and electric lines be placed underground, if:

4 (1) The authority has required all electric and communications  
5 lines to be placed underground by a date certain that is three (3) months  
6 before the submission of the application;

7 (2) Any poles the authority allows to remain shall be made  
8 available to wireless providers for the collocation of small wireless  
9 facilities, and may be replaced by a wireless provider to accommodate the  
10 collocation of small wireless facilities, in compliance with this subchapter;

11 (3) A wireless provider may install a new pole in the designated  
12 area that otherwise complies with this section when it is not able to provide  
13 wireless service by collocating on a remaining structure; and

14 (4)(A) For small wireless facilities installed before an  
15 authority adopts requirements that communications and electric lines be  
16 placed underground, an authority adopting the requirements shall:

17 (i) Permit a wireless provider to maintain the small  
18 wireless facilities in a place on any pole not required to be removed,  
19 subject to any applicable pole attachment agreement with the pole owner; or

20 (ii) Permit the wireless provider to replace an  
21 existing pole within fifty feet (50') of the prior location.

22 (B) An authority may require wireless providers to comply  
23 with reasonable and nondiscriminatory horizontal spacing requirements of  
24 general application for new poles and ground-mounted small wireless  
25 facilities, but the requirements shall not prevent a wireless provider from  
26 serving any location.

27 (d)(1) When a wireless provider applies to install a new pole in the  
28 right-of-way in an area zoned for residential use, the authority may propose  
29 an alternative location in the right-of-way within one hundred feet (100') of  
30 the location stated in the application, and the wireless provider shall use  
31 the authority's proposed alternative location unless the location imposes  
32 technical limits or significant additional costs.

33 (2) The wireless provider shall certify that it has made the  
34 determination in good faith, based on the assessment of a licensed engineer,  
35 and the wireless provider shall provide a written summary of the basis for  
36 the determination.

1 (e) Aesthetic standards shall be effective after approval by  
2 ordinance, resolution, or rule of the governing body of the authority.

3 (f)(1) The board of zoning adjustment of an authority may:

4 (A) Hear appeals of the decision of the administrative  
5 officers in respect to the enforcement and application of the aesthetic  
6 standards, and may affirm or reverse, in whole or in part, the decision of  
7 the administrative officer; and

8 (B) Hear requests for variances from the literal  
9 provisions of the aesthetic standards and grant the variances only when it is  
10 necessary to avoid the prohibition of wireless service or otherwise comply  
11 with the law.

12 (2) Decisions of the board in respect to subdivision (f)(1) of  
13 this section shall be subject to appeal only to a court of record having  
14 jurisdiction.

15  
16 23-17-509. Collocation on authority poles.

17 (a) This section applies to activities of a wireless provider  
18 collocating small wireless facilities on authority poles in the authority's  
19 right-of-way or in a right-of-way controlled by the Arkansas Department of  
20 Transportation located within an authority.

21 (b)(1) A person owning, managing, or controlling authority poles in  
22 the right-of-way shall not enter into an exclusive arrangement with any  
23 person for the right to attach to the poles.

24 (2) A person who purchases or otherwise acquires an authority  
25 pole is subject to the requirements of this section.

26 (c) An authority shall allow the collocation of small wireless  
27 facilities on authority poles on nondiscriminatory terms and conditions using  
28 the process in § 23-17-510.

29 (d) The rate to collocate on authority poles is provided in § 23-17-  
30 511.

31 (e)(1)(A) As part of an application to collocate a small wireless  
32 facility on an authority pole, the wireless provider shall submit make-ready  
33 design drawings and work descriptions that enable the pole to support the  
34 requested collocation by the wireless provider, including pole replacement if  
35 necessary.

36 (B) An authority may amend the make-ready design drawings

1 and work to comply with applicable codes before the issuance of a permit to  
2 the extent reasonably necessary.

3 (2) The rates, fees, and terms and conditions for the make-ready  
4 work to collocate on an authority pole shall be nondiscriminatory,  
5 competitively neutral, and commercially reasonable and shall comply with this  
6 subchapter.

7 (3) The authority shall not require more make-ready work than  
8 required to meet applicable codes or industry standards nor may the fees for  
9 make-ready work include costs related to preexisting or prior damage or  
10 noncompliance.

11 (4)(A) An authority may require replacement of an authority pole  
12 only if the collocation would make the authority pole structurally unsound.

13 (B) The authority may require that the replaced authority  
14 pole have the same functionality as the pole being replaced.

15 (C) If the authority pole is replaced, the authority shall  
16 take ownership of the new pole and operate authority fixtures on the pole.

17 (5)(A) Make-ready fees charged by an authority may include the  
18 amount the authority pays a professional engineer registered in Arkansas to  
19 review the wireless provider's make-ready work plans.

20 (B) Fees for make-ready work shall not include any revenue  
21 or contingency-based consultant's fees or expenses of any kind.

22 (6) Within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the application  
23 filed to collocate on an authority pole, the authority shall elect to:

24 (A) Perform the make-ready work necessary to enable the  
25 pole to support the requested collocation by a wireless provider and provide  
26 a good-faith estimate for the work, including pole replacement, if necessary;  
27 or

28 (B) Authorize the wireless provider to perform the make-  
29 ready work.

30 (7)(A) The authority shall complete make-ready work it elects to  
31 perform, including any pole replacement, within sixty (60) days of written  
32 acceptance of the good faith estimate of the applicant.

33 (B) If the authority electing to perform the make-ready  
34 work has not completed the work within sixty (60) days after the written  
35 acceptance and deposit of the good faith estimate by the applicant, the  
36 applicant may demand a return of any deposited funds and proceed with the

1 make-ready work as described in subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section, using  
2 authorized, qualified contractors approved by the authority with the  
3 authorization not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed.

4 (f)(1) An authority may reserve space on an authority pole for future  
5 public safety or transportation uses in a documented and approved plan in  
6 place at the time an application is filed.

7 (2) A reservation of space shall not preclude placement of a  
8 pole or collocation of a small wireless facility.

9 (3) If replacement of the authority's pole is necessary to  
10 accommodate the collocation of the small wireless facility and the future  
11 use, the wireless provider shall pay for the replacement of the authority  
12 pole and the replaced pole shall accommodate future use.

13  
14 23-17-510. Permits.

15 (a)(1) This section applies to all permits required for the  
16 collocation of small wireless facilities and to the permitting of the  
17 installation, modification, and replacement of associated poles by a wireless  
18 provider that:

19 (A) Is in an authority's right-of-way; or

20 (B) Is in a right-of-way controlled by the Arkansas Department  
21 of Transportation located within the jurisdiction of an authority if the  
22 application is for collocation on an authority pole or if the authority has  
23 adopted aesthetic standards under § 23-17-508.

24 (2) A permit issued under subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section  
25 remains subject to the rules of the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

26 (b) Except as provided in this subchapter, an authority shall not  
27 prohibit, regulate, or charge for the collocation of small wireless  
28 facilities or the installation, modification, or replacement of associated  
29 poles that may be permitted in this section.

30 (c) An authority may require an applicant to obtain one (1) or more  
31 permits to collocate small wireless facilities or to install a new, modified,  
32 or replacement pole associated with a small wireless facility as provided in  
33 § 23-17-505 to § 23-17-507, provided the permits are of general applicability  
34 and do not apply exclusively to small wireless facilities.

35 (d) An authority shall receive and process applications subject to the  
36 following requirements:

1           (1) An authority shall not directly or indirectly require an  
2 applicant to perform services or provide goods unrelated to the permit, such  
3 as in-kind contributions to the authority, including without limitation  
4 reserving fiber, conduit, or space on the applicant's pole for the authority;

5           (2) An authority may require an applicant to submit the  
6 information and fees stated in subdivision (d)(2)(A)-(J) of this section for  
7 a permit for a deployment in the authority's right-of-way or on an authority  
8 pole in the right-of-way controlled by the Arkansas Department of  
9 Transportation located within an authority and may only require an applicant  
10 to submit the information and fees stated in subdivision (d)(2)(A)-(C) and  
11 (J) of this section for deployments of or on poles that are not owned by the  
12 authority located in the right-of-way controlled by the Arkansas Department  
13 of Transportation located within an authority:

14           (A) Identification of the applicant;

15           (B) A map or description of the location of the  
16 facilities;

17           (C) An illustration that shows the final appearance of the  
18 facilities;

19           (D) Engineering drawings of the facilities to be  
20 installed, including required make-ready work to be performed;

21           (E) Electrical load information;

22           (F) Pole loading calculations;

23           (G) Worker safety information related to small wireless  
24 facility installation;

25           (H) Evidence of bonding, if required;

26           (I) Evidence of insurance, if required; and

27           (J) Required application fees;

28           (3) An authority shall not require:

29           (A) The collocation of small wireless facilities on any  
30 specific pole or category of poles or require multiple antenna facilities on  
31 a single pole;

32           (B) The use of specific pole types or configurations when  
33 installing new or replacement poles; or

34           (C) The underground placements of small wireless  
35 facilities that are, or are designated in an application, to be pole-mounted  
36 or ground-mounted;



1           (4) An authority shall not limit the collocation of small  
2 wireless facilities by minimum horizontal separation distance requirements  
3 from existing small wireless facilities, poles, or wireless support  
4 structures;

5           (5) The applicant shall attest that the small wireless  
6 facilities will be operational for use by a wireless service provider within  
7 one (1) year of after the permit issuance date, unless the authority and the  
8 applicant agree to extend this period or delay is caused by lack of  
9 commercial power, communications, transport facilities to the site, or any  
10 other factors outside of the applicant's control;

11           (6)(A) Within ten (10) days of receiving an application, an  
12 authority shall determine and notify the applicant in writing whether the  
13 application is complete.

14           (B) If an application is incomplete, the authority shall  
15 specifically identify the missing information in writing.

16           (C) The processing deadline in subdivision (d)(7) of this  
17 section shall restart at zero (0) on the date the applicant provides the  
18 missing information identified under subdivision (b)(6)(B) to complete the  
19 application;

20           (7)(A) Applications shall be processed on a nondiscriminatory  
21 basis within:

22                   (i) Sixty (60) days of receipt of an application for  
23 the collocation of a small wireless facility; and

24                   (ii) Ninety (90) days for an application to install,  
25 modify, or replace a pole on which a small wireless facility is or will be  
26 collocated.

27           (B) The processing deadline may be tolled by agreement of  
28 the applicant and the authority.

29           (C) If an authority fails to act on a complete application  
30 within the applicable deadline, the application shall be deemed to be  
31 approved ten (10) days after written notice is provided by the applicant to  
32 the authority that the time period for acting on the application has lapsed;

33           (8) An authority may deny a proposed collocation of a small  
34 wireless facility or installation, modification, or replacement of a pole in  
35 its right-of-way that meets the requirements in § 23-17-506(a)-(c) only if  
36 authorized under subdivisions (d)(9) or (d)(10) or the proposed deployment:

1 (A) Materially interferes with the safe operation of  
2 traffic control equipment;

3 (B) Materially interferes with sight lines or clear zones  
4 for transportation or pedestrians;

5 (C) Materially interferes with compliance with the  
6 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-336, or similar  
7 federal or state standards regarding pedestrian access or movement;

8 (D) Fails to comply with applicable codes; or

9 (E) Fails to comply with § 23-17-506(d) and (e) and § 23-  
10 17-508;

11 (9) An authority may deny a proposed collocation of a small  
12 wireless facility on an authority pole in a right-of-way controlled by the  
13 Arkansas Department of Transportation located within the authority that meets  
14 the requirements in § 23-17-506 only if the proposed collocation meets the  
15 criteria in § 23-17-510(d)(8)(A) or (D) or fails to comply with aesthetic  
16 standards adopted in an ordinance under § 23-17-508;

17 (10) An authority may deny a proposed collocation of a small  
18 wireless facility or installation, modification, or replacement of a pole in  
19 a right-of-way controlled by the Arkansas Department of Transportation  
20 located within the authority that meets the requirements in § 23-17-506 only  
21 if the proposed deployment fails to comply with aesthetic standards adopted  
22 in an ordinance under § 23-17-508;

23 (11)(A) The authority shall document the basis for a denial,  
24 including the specific code, rule, or statutory authority on which the denial  
25 is based, and send the documentation to the applicant on or before the day  
26 the authority denies an application.

27 (B) The applicant may cure the deficiencies identified by  
28 the authority and resubmit the application within thirty (30) days of the  
29 denial without paying an additional application fee.

30 (C) The authority shall approve or deny the revised  
31 application within thirty (30) days of resubmission and limit its review to  
32 the deficiencies cited in the denial;

33 (12)(A)(i) An applicant seeking to collocate small wireless  
34 facilities within the jurisdiction of a single authority shall be allowed at  
35 the applicant's discretion to file a batched application for small wireless  
36 facilities and associated poles and receive a single permit for the

1 collocation of multiple small wireless facilities and the placement of  
2 associated poles.

3 (ii) However, the denial of one (1) or more small  
4 wireless facilities in a batched application shall not delay processing of  
5 any other small wireless facilities or poles in the same consolidated  
6 application.

7 (B) Batched applications shall be collectively processed  
8 according to the procedures in this section.

9 (C) A consolidated application that includes new pole  
10 deployments shall be subject to a ninety-day timeframe for approval;

11 (13)(A) Installation or collocation for which a permit is  
12 granted under this section shall be completed within one (1) year after the  
13 permit issuance date unless the authority and the applicant agree to extend  
14 this period, or a delay is caused by circumstances beyond the applicant's  
15 control.

16 (B) Approval of an application authorizes the applicant to  
17 undertake the installation or collocation;

18 (14) Subject to applicable relocation requirements and the  
19 applicant's right to terminate at any time, the applicant shall operate and  
20 maintain the small wireless facilities and any associated poles covered by  
21 the permit for a period of not less than ten (10) years, which shall be  
22 renewed for equivalent durations so long as the small wireless facilities  
23 comply with the criteria stated in subdivision (d)(8) of this section; and

24 (15) An authority shall not institute, either expressly or de  
25 facto, a moratorium on:

26 (A) Filing, receiving, or processing applications; or

27 (B) Issuing permits or other approvals, if any, for the  
28 collocation of small wireless facilities or the installation, modification,  
29 or replacement of associated poles.

30 (e)(1) An authority shall not require an application for:

31 (A) Routine maintenance;

32 (B) The replacement of small wireless facilities with  
33 small wireless facilities that are substantially similar or the same size or  
34 smaller; or

35 (C) The installation, placement, maintenance, operation,  
36 or replacement of a micro-wireless facility that is suspended on cables that

1 are strung between existing poles and that complies with the applicable  
2 codes.

3 (2) However, an authority may require a permit for work that  
4 requires excavation or closure of sidewalks or vehicular lanes within the  
5 right-of-way for the activities.

6 (3) A permit shall be issued to the applicant on a  
7 nondiscriminatory basis upon terms and conditions applied to any other  
8 person's activities in the right-of-way that requires excavation, closing of  
9 sidewalks, or vehicular lanes.

10  
11 23-17-511. Fees and rates.

12 (a) This section shall govern an authority's rates and fees for use of  
13 authority poles and the placement of a small wireless facility or associated  
14 poles.

15 (b) An authority shall not require a wireless provider to pay any  
16 rates, fees, or compensation to the authority or other person other than what  
17 is expressly authorized by this subchapter for the right to use or occupy a  
18 right-of-way, for collocation of small wireless facilities on or in  
19 structures in the right-of-way, or for the installation, maintenance,  
20 modification, and replacement of associated poles in the right-of-way.

21 (c) Application fees for a permit shall be nondiscriminatory and shall  
22 not collectively exceed the following:

23 (1) One hundred dollars (\$100) for each small wireless facility;  
24 or

25 (2) Two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for the installation,  
26 modification, or replacement of a pole together with the collocation of an  
27 associated small wireless facility in the right-of-way.

28 (d)(1) Except as described in § 23-17-510(e), a wireless provider  
29 shall pay an authority compensation for use of the right-of-way, an annual  
30 rate of up to thirty dollars (\$30.00) per small wireless facility.

31 (2) A wireless provider shall pay an authority compensation for  
32 collocation of small wireless facilities on authority poles an annual rate of  
33 up to two hundred forty dollars (\$240) for each authority pole.

34 (e) A wireless provider is not required to pay an authority  
35 compensation for micro-wireless facilities that are suspended on cables  
36 strung between existing utility poles in the right-of-way as long as the

1 wireless provider compensates the authority through other licenses or  
2 franchises held directly or through one (1) of the wireless provider's  
3 affiliates for the placement of the suspension cables in the right-of-way.

4 (f) The rates under this section, together with a one-time application  
5 fee, shall be the total compensation that the wireless provider is required  
6 to pay the authority for the deployment of small wireless facilities in the  
7 right-of-way and any associated poles.

8  
9 23-17-512. Local authority.

10 (a)(1) Subject to this subchapter and applicable federal law, an  
11 authority may continue to exercise zoning, land use, planning, and permitting  
12 authority within its territorial boundaries with respect to wireless support  
13 structures, including the enforcement of applicable codes.

14 (2) An authority shall not have or exercise any jurisdiction or  
15 authority over the design, engineering, construction, installation, or  
16 operation of a small wireless facility located in an interior structure or  
17 upon the site of a campus, stadium, or athletic facility not owned or  
18 controlled by the authority, other than to require compliance with applicable  
19 codes.

20 (b) This subchapter does not authorize the state or any political  
21 subdivision, including an authority, to require small wireless facility  
22 deployment or to regulate wireless service.

23  
24 23-17-513. Arkansas Public Service Commission – Jurisdiction over pole  
25 attachments.

26 (a) This subchapter does not limit, abrogate, or supersede the  
27 jurisdiction of the Arkansas Public Service Commission, or any rule or order  
28 of the commission concerning pole attachments under § 23-4-1001 et seq., or  
29 any agreement of a public utility pole owner and attacher related to the  
30 rates, terms, and conditions for a pole attachment.

31 (b) This subchapter does not authorize:

32 (1) Any attachment or installation to or on an electric  
33 cooperative-owned pole;

34 (2) Any attachment or installation within a nonpublic right-of-  
35 way acquired by an electric cooperative; or

36 (3) Use of an electric cooperative-owned line, duct, conduit,

1 similar structure, or equipment of any type.

2 (c) This subchapter does not authorize:

3 (1) Any attachment or installation to or on an investor-owned  
4 electric utility-owned pole;

5 (2) Any attachment or installation within a nonpublic right-of-  
6 way acquired by an investor-owned electric public utility; or

7 (3) Use of an investor-owned electric public utility owned line,  
8 duct, conduit, similar structure, or equipment of any type.

9  
10 23-17-514. Implementation.

11 (a)(1) An authority may adopt an ordinance that makes available to  
12 wireless providers rates, fees, and other terms that comply with this  
13 subchapter.

14 (2) Subject to the other provisions of this section, in the  
15 absence of an ordinance or agreement that substantially implements this  
16 subchapter and until such an ordinance is adopted or agreement is reached, if  
17 at all, a wireless provider may collocate small wireless facilities and  
18 install associated poles under the requirements of this subchapter.

19 (3) An authority shall not require a wireless provider to enter  
20 into an agreement to implement this subchapter, but such agreements are  
21 permissible if voluntary and nondiscriminatory.

22 (b) Ordinances and agreements implementing this subchapter are public  
23 or private arrangements and are matters of legitimate and significant  
24 statewide concern.

25 (c)(1) A provision of an agreement or ordinance with an effective date  
26 before September 1, 2019, that does not fully comply with this subchapter  
27 shall apply only to small wireless facilities and associated poles that were  
28 operational before September 1, 2019, and shall be deemed invalid and  
29 unenforceable beginning on the one hundred eighty-first day after September  
30 1, 2019.

31 (2) To the extent an agreement or ordinance, or part thereof, is  
32 invalid under subdivision (c)(1) of this section, small wireless facilities  
33 and associated poles that became operational before September 1, 2019, under  
34 the agreement or ordinance, may remain installed and be operated under the  
35 requirements of this subchapter.

36 (d)(1) An agreement or ordinance with an effective date of September

1 1, 2019, or later that applies to small wireless facilities and associated  
2 poles is invalid and unenforceable unless it fully complies with this  
3 subchapter.

4 (2) In the absence of an ordinance or agreement that complies  
5 with this subchapter, a wireless provider may install and operate small  
6 wireless facilities and associated poles in the right-of-way under the  
7 requirements of this subchapter.

8  
9 23-17-515. Dispute resolution.

10 (a) A court of competent jurisdiction shall have jurisdiction to  
11 determine disputes arising under this subchapter.

12 (b) Pending resolution of a dispute concerning rates for collocation  
13 of small wireless facilities on authority poles in the right-of-way, the  
14 authority owning or controlling the structure shall allow the collocating  
15 person to collocate at annual rates of no more than:

16 (1) Thirty dollars (\$30.00) per small wireless facility for use  
17 of the right-of-way; and

18 (2) An annual rate of up to two hundred forty dollars (\$240) for  
19 each authority pole used for the collocation of small wireless facilities,  
20 with rates to be trued up upon final resolution of the dispute.

21 (c) Any disputes, wherever filed, shall be pursued according to  
22 accelerated docket or complaint procedures, if available.

23  
24 23-17-516. Indemnification, insurance, and bonding.

25 (a) An authority may adopt reasonable indemnification, insurance, and  
26 bonding requirements related to the deployment of small wireless facilities  
27 and associated poles under this subchapter.

28 (b)(1) An authority may require a wireless provider to defend,  
29 indemnify and hold harmless the authority and its officers, agents and  
30 employees against any claims, demands, damages, lawsuits, judgments, costs,  
31 liens, losses, expenses, and attorney's fees resulting from the installation,  
32 construction, repair, replacement, operation, or maintenance of poles, small  
33 wireless facilities, or attachments to authority poles to the extent directly  
34 caused by the negligence of the wireless provider, its contractors,  
35 subcontractors and their officers, employees or agents.

36 (2) A wireless provider has no obligation to defend, indemnify,

1 or hold harmless an authority or its officers, agents, or employees against  
2 any liabilities or losses due to or caused by the sole negligence of the  
3 authority or its employees or agents.

4 (c)(1) An authority may require a wireless provider to have in effect  
5 insurance coverage against the claims, demands, damages, lawsuits, judgments,  
6 costs, liens, losses, expenses, and attorney's fees described in subsection  
7 (b) of this section, so long as the authority imposes similar requirements on  
8 other right-of-way users and the requirements are reasonable and  
9 nondiscriminatory, and provided that an authority does not require a wireless  
10 provider to obtain insurance naming the authority or its officers and  
11 employees as additional insureds.

12 (2)(A) A wireless provider with net assets of at least five  
13 hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000), including the assets of its  
14 affiliates, may self-insure as to any required coverage.

15 (B) An authority may require reasonable proof that the  
16 wireless provider is eligible under subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this section to  
17 self-insure.

18 (C) A wireless provider shall immediately notify each  
19 authority in which the wireless provider has obtained permits of any change  
20 in its self-insured status as to any coverage required under this subsection,  
21 and of any change in the ability of the wireless provider to cover the losses  
22 specified in subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

23 (d)(1) An authority may adopt bonding requirements for small wireless  
24 facility collocations if the authority imposes similar requirements in  
25 connection with other right-of-way users.

26 (2) The purpose of the bonds shall be to:

27 (A) Provide for the removal of abandoned or improperly  
28 maintained small wireless facilities, including those that an authority  
29 determines needs to be removed to protect public health, safety, or welfare;  
30 and

31 (B) Recoup rates or fees that have not been paid by a  
32 wireless provider in over twelve (12) months, so long as the wireless  
33 provider has received reasonable notice from the authority of any of the  
34 noncompliance listed above and an opportunity to cure.

35 (3)(A) Bonding requirements shall not exceed one thousand  
36 dollars (\$1,000) per small wireless facility.



