

# WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §31H-2-3

## **§31H-2-3. Access to authority utility poles; application and permit fees and rates for small wireless facilities.**

(a) An authority shall allow the collocation of small wireless facilities on authority utility poles within the right-of-way subject to the provisions of this chapter and the following:

(1) An authority may not enter into an exclusive arrangement with any person for the right to attach small wireless facilities to authority utility poles;

(2) The rates and fees for collocations on authority utility poles shall be nondiscriminatory regardless of the services provided by the collocating person;

(3) An authority may charge an annual recurring rate to collocate small wireless facilities on an authority utility pole that equals \$65 per year per pole. An authority may adjust this rate 10 percent every five years, rounded to the nearest five dollars. Nothing in this subdivision prohibits a wireless provider and an authority from mutually agreeing to an annual recurring rate of less than \$65 to collocate a small wireless facility on an authority utility pole;

(4) The rates, fees, and terms for make-ready work must be nondiscriminatory, competitively neutral, and commercially reasonable and must comply with this section;

(5) An authority shall provide a good faith estimate for any make-ready work necessary to enable the pole to support the requested collocation by a wireless provider, including pole replacement if necessary, within 60 days after receipt of a complete application. Make-ready work including any pole replacement shall be completed within 60 days of written acceptance of the good faith estimate by the applicant. An authority may require replacement of the authority utility pole only if it demonstrates that the collocation would make the authority utility pole structurally unsound; and

(6) The person owning, managing, or controlling the authority utility pole may not require more make-ready work than is required to meet applicable codes or industry standards. Fees for make-ready work may not include costs related to preexisting or prior damage or noncompliance. Fees for make-ready work including any pole replacement may not exceed the actual costs or the amount charged to other communications service providers for similar work and may not include any consultant fee or expense.

(b) For the purposes of a state-owned right-of-way maintained by the Division of Highways, the commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code, to implement the provisions of this article.

(c) Application fees are subject to the following requirements:

(1) An authority may not require a wireless provider to pay any rates, fees, or compensation to the authority or other person other than what is expressly authorized by this chapter;

(2) An authority may charge an application fee for collocation of small wireless facilities on an existing utility pole not to exceed \$200 each for the first five small wireless facilities in the same application and \$100 for each additional small wireless facility in the same application. An authority may adjust this fee 10 percent every five years, rounded to the nearest five dollars;

(3) An authority may charge an application fee for the installation, modification, or replacement of a utility pole and the collocation of an associated small wireless facility that are permitted uses in accordance with the specifications in this chapter not to exceed \$250. An authority may adjust this fee 10 percent every five years, rounded to the nearest five dollars; and

(4) An authority may charge an application fee for the installation, modification, or replacement of a utility pole and the collocation of an associated small wireless facility that is not a permitted use in accordance with the specifications in this chapter not to exceed \$1,000. An authority may adjust this fee 10 percent every five years, rounded to the nearest five dollars.