



# HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

## Office of the County Auditor

### FISCAL IMPACT NOTE

**Bill Number:**

19-017

Armstrong Cable  
Franchise Agreement

**Sponsor:**

Council President Vincenti  
and Council Member  
Shrodes

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:**

None

**Summary of Legislation**

An EMERGENCY ACT to renew the nonexclusive cable television franchise for Armstrong Utilities, Inc. to operate in the County; to incorporate the terms of the Franchise Agreement into this Act; and generally relating to the renewal of the cable television franchise to Armstrong Utilities, Inc.; and that this Act is declared to be an emergency act affecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Harford County, Maryland.

The bill will take effect when it is adopted.

**Fiscal Analysis**

Currently, the County Code requires cable television providers to have a franchise agreement to operate in Harford County. Armstrong's agreement expired in 2018. The proposed legislation would approve the new franchise agreement for the next 15 years. Key changes include:

- Clarifications of "Gross Subscriber Revenue"
- Quarterly franchise fee payments instead of annual payments
- The County may raise the fee from 3% up to 5% if all other franchisees' fees are increased
- Calculations to determine the costs of providing service in low density areas, and
- Adding requirements for customer bills

The proposed franchise agreement does not change the formula for fees paid to Harford County, so it should not impact the County's future revenue substantially.

**Additional Information:**

Version: 01  
based on bill as  
introduced 05/07/2019

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