

SB 596/HB 687 would give almost any entity the right to attach small cell equipment to sensitive municipal electric utility infrastructure and a city would have little ability to deny the request. This presents significant safety risks, potential interference with municipal electric systems and added costs to the municipality.

Creates Safety Risks

- This bill would put Florida's municipal linemen at risk.
- Having people not trained to work on city power lines and utility poles could cause serious safety issues for both for municipal linemen and those attaching small cell equipment to municipal electric utility infrastructure.
- It would be very dangerous to give other entities the ability to attach small cell equipment to municipal electric poles when city linemen might not be aware they are there.

Affects Reliability

- Much of this small cell equipment works off radio frequencies, which could interfere with municipal electric systems.
- There are very limited restrictions on the size of the equipment that can be attached, which may affect the amount of weight an electric utility pole can bear – a particularly significant issue in hurricane and severe storm-prone Florida.

Creates Costs for Municipalities

- "Make ready" provisions in this bill require municipalities to make adjustments to existing electric utility infrastructure so small cell equipment can be attached, but not all costs are covered by the entity attaching the equipment leaving the remaining cost for the city to absorb.
- Entities attaching equipment are not required to maintain this equipment. Maintenance and removal costs are left to the city.

Unequitable and Unnecessary

- This bill applies only to Florida's municipal electric utility facilities and not investor-owned utilities.
- No other state has enacted or proposed legislation that gives entities the right to access municipal electric utilities' infrastructure.
- The Federal Communications Commission is currently considering a rule that would address the issues raised in this bill and would ultimately supersede anything enacted at the state level.









