

**Catherine F. Parker**  
**Legislator, 7th District**  
Chair, Committee on Appointments



**Committee Assignments:**  
Economic Development  
Veterans, Seniors & Youth

### **MEMORANDUM OF LEGISLATION**

**DATE:** February 2, 2024

**TITLE:** Utility Poles on County Road Rights-of-Way

**SPONSOR:** Legislator Catherine F. Parker

**PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:** To create a law requiring utility companies that utilize Westchester County road right-of-way to remove their lines and equipment from damaged poles in a timely manner.

**INTENT:** To enhance public safety and the aesthetic appearance of roadways in Westchester County by ensuring that utility companies repair and replace damaged utility poles without delay.

**JUSTIFICATION:** Public utility companies place poles in County road rights-of-way to facilitate the delivery of electric, telephone and cable television services to County residents. These poles are often damaged by traffic accidents or adverse weather conditions. Public safety can be compromised when utility lines and equipment remain affixed to damaged poles for unreasonably long periods of time. A utility company's delay in removing lines and equipment from damaged poles in turn delays the removal of the pole itself, and simultaneously causes many aesthetically unpleasant "double woods" along roadways.

Other municipalities in New York have addressed this issue. For example, Suffolk County Code Section 808-3 provides that if the County notifies a public utility that a pole in a County road right-of-way is damaged and poses a potential threat to public safety, the utility must remove its plant from the damaged pole with 15 days of receiving notice of such from the County. If there is a double pole in a County road right-of-way, the utility must remove the top plant on the double pole within 60 days of receipt of notification from the County.

**PRESENT LAW:** None.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** TBD

cc: Marcello Figueroa, Legislative Director  
Dylan Tragni, Chief of Staff