

**Summary****Board Bill Number 26****Primary Sponsor:** Alderwoman Christine Ingrassia**May 15, 2020**

The proposed Board Bill would require utility service providers to locate utility meters outside of the public view and/ or employ one or more of the measures set forth in the bill to conceal them. It would also require utility service providers to notify property owners of the placement or relocation of utility meters on their property and allow them to select from certain options for the location and / or concealment of the utility meter. The proposed Board Bill contains a violations clause.

**BOARD BILL NUMBER 26 INTRODUCED BY: ALDERWOMAN CHRISTINE INGRASSIA**

1 An ordinance requiring utility service providers to locate utility service meters, as defined in this  
2 ordinance, outside of the public view and / or employ one or more of the measures set forth  
3 herein to conceal them; and containing a violations clause.

4 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

5 **SECTION ONE. Definitions.**

6 For purposes of this ordinance the terms set forth below shall have the following meanings:

7 “Utility meter” means a device that is installed on a property or premises that is used to measure  
8 customers’ usage of natural gas, electricity, including those parts and hardware that are related to  
9 its functioning and its installation. Such devices that are installed inside of a premises shall not be  
10 included in this definition.

11 “Utility service provider” means an entity that is responsible for providing and maintaining the  
12 infrastructure used to deliver natural gas, electricity, and water to customers.

13 **SECTION TWO. Utility Meter Installation.**

14 A. Except as otherwise specifically required by state or federal statute or regulations, when  
15 installing or relocating utility meters that provide service to any building or structure in the City  
16 of St. Louis consideration for their placement shall first be given to installation or relocation within  
17 the building or structure. Where installation or placement of a utility meters is specifically  
18 prohibited or otherwise governed by the City’s building code, or state or federal statute or  
19 regulations the following shall apply:

- 1        1. Except as otherwise specifically required by state or federal statute or regulation, or the  
2            City's building code, utility meters shall not be located in the front of a building or  
3            structure where the front of the building or structure adjoins a street, avenue, sidewalk,  
4            or other public right-of-way except for an alley.
- 5        2. Whenever state or federal statute or regulation, or the City's building code specifically  
6            require that a utility meter be located in the front of a building or structure where the  
7            front of the building or structure adjoins a street, avenue, sidewalk, or other public right-  
8            of-way except for an alley, the utility meter shall be placed in a location that is completely  
9            outside of public view.
- 10       3. Whenever it is not possible to locate a utility meter completely outside of public view  
11           due to a specific requirement state or federal statute or regulation, or the City's building  
12           code the utility meter shall be concealed from public view by one or more of the means  
13           listed below, or other means which are consistent with the nature, style, and appearance  
14           of those means listed below, and at the sole cost and expense of the utility provider:
  - 15                    a) Install a utility meter cover that is consistent with the color, style and  
16                            architecture of the building or structure, or that blends with the  
17                            surrounding landscape.
  - 18                    b) Place plants and trees that are consistent with the property's landscape to  
19                            provide concealment.
  - 20                    c) Landscape the immediately surrounding area the utility meter to provide  
21                            concealment.

1 d) Paint the utility meter so as to blend in with the building or structure and  
2 / or surrounding area. If painted the utility service provider shall regularly  
3 repaint the utility meter and when it is necessary to maintain its  
4 appearance.

5 e) Whenever it is not possible to locate a utility meter out of public view or  
6 completely conceal a utility meter from public view the utility meter shall  
7 be placed in a location and / or measures shall be taken that minimize the  
8 visibility of the utility meter from the public view.

9 **SECTION THREE. Property Owner Notice and Input Requirements.**

10 A. Utility service providers shall give owners of property, or their designated agents, on which  
11 a utility meter is to be installed or relocated at least ninety (90) days advance written notice from  
12 the date of the utility service provider's intended date or the first date of the intended period for  
13 the installation or relocation of the utility meter. Such notice shall specify the date or the first  
14 date of the intended period for the installation or relocation, list the options available for the  
15 placement and / or concealment of the utility meter on the property owner's property, and  
16 identify any options that are not available and the specific reasons therefor. Such notice shall set  
17 forth an address and email to which property owners may respond with their selected options for  
18 the placement and / or concealment of the utility meter on their property, and shall include a  
19 copy of this Ordinance.

20 B. Property owners shall select from the available options that are listed in the notice required  
21 under paragraph A. of this Section for the placement and concealment of a utility meter on their  
22 property and the utility service provider shall then implement the options selected by the property

1 owner. Cost for the location or concealment of a utility meter shall not be a reason for excluding  
2 it from a list of available options provided in the notice.

3 C. Property owners shall have sixty (60) days from their receipt of notice to respond to the utility  
4 service provider with their selection of options for the location and / or concealment of the utility  
5 meter on the property owner's property.

6 **SECTION FIVE. Violations.** Any person or entity violating any provision of this ordinance  
7 shall upon conviction be subject to a fine of not less than five-hundred dollars (\$500), and if  
8 found to be in violation of Section Two of this ordinance shall, at their sole cost and expense  
9 remove and relocate the utility meter so as to comply with this Ordinance and return the property  
10 to substantially the same condition as before the violation.