

## **5G cell service bill passes state legislature**

*Bay*

*News*

9

State lawmakers have passed a bill that would make it easier for wireless companies to bring faster cell service to Florida. But some county leaders across the state are not happy about it. House Bill 687 just passed the Florida House and Senate with an overwhelming majority. It makes it a lot easier for the cell phone companies to set up the 5G network. Right now, cities and county governments must give cell phone companies permission to install equipment along streets and at intersections. And local governments can negotiate with wireless carriers, sometimes getting thousands of dollars a year for each piece of equipment installed. However, House Bill 687 allows cell companies to install the equipment without local government approval and it caps the amount local governments can charge carriers to \$150 a year per piece of equipment. Seminole County Commissioner John Horan says that is not fair. Horan and other county leaders across the state also worry about what all of the cell equipment will look like aesthetically. The bill passed in the Florida House and Senate, and it is now up to the governor to sign it into law. If that happens, the law would take effect July 1.

Login | What is News+?

Search... Sut



**LOGIC**

Pitch Your IoT Project  
Win a Free 4G Industrial PC

**ENTER HERE**

May 10 12:57:55 PM Temp: 88°

**NEWS** WEATHER TRAFFIC SPORTS ON THE TOWN COMMUNITY POLITICS BUSINESS LOTTO VIDEO NEWS

Seen On 9 Hillsborough Pinellas Polk Pasco Manatee Hernando Citrus National Health Space State Español

### 5G cell service bill passes state legislature



House Bill 687 allows cell companies to install the equipment without local government approval and it caps the amount local governments can charge carriers to \$150 a year per piece of equipment. (News 13)

By Jeff Allen, Reporter  
Last Updated: Friday, May 05, 2017, 11:55 AM EDT

452

State lawmakers have passed a bill that would make it easier for wireless companies to bring faster cell service to Florida. But some county leaders across the state are not happy about it.

- Some leaders upset that bill allows companies to install equipment without gov approval
- 5G service means faster Internet connections, quicker downloads
- Bill 687 is awaiting governor's signature to become law

Most cell phones currently run on a 4G LTE network, but eventually wireless companies plan to roll out a 5th Generation — or 5G network — that promises to provide faster connections, quicker downloads and even support self-driving cars.

House Bill 687 just passed the Florida House and Senate with an overwhelming majority. It makes it a lot easier for the cell phone companies to set up the 5G network.

State Representative Mike La Rosa, who represents House District 42, co-sponsored the bill.

"I just believe it's important for Florida to be ahead of the curve and not behind it, and if this technology can be rolled out here first, I certainly want to make way for that," said La Rosa, who represents parts of Osceola and Polk counties.

To make 5G service possible, companies will need more than just cell phone towers. They will need to install smaller cell equipment — about the size of a backpack — on utility poles, traffic light arms and even sign posts along streets and in intersections in cities and counties across the state.

Right now, cities and county governments must give cell phone companies permission to install equipment along streets and at intersections. And local governments can negotiate with wireless carriers, sometimes getting thousands of dollars a year for each piece of equipment installed.

However, House Bill 687 allows cell companies to install the equipment without local government approval and it caps the amount local governments can charge carriers to \$150 a year per piece of equipment.



**LOGIC**

Pitch Your IoT Project  
Win a 4G Industrial PC

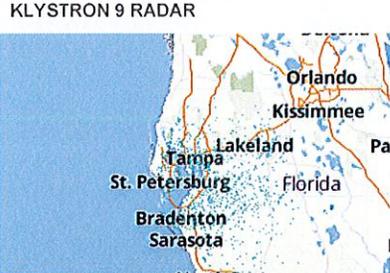
**ENTER HERE**

**Watch LIVE!**



**9** KLYSTRON 9 RADAR

Learn more | iOS | Android | Kindle Fire | Roku




**vanhawks**  
smart bike

order now

D.C. DIGEST

Seminole County Commissioner John Horan says that is not fair.

"We should be able to, as local governments, to set a market-competitive rate for the use of our right-of-ways just like we do with any other utility," said Horan. "This is a tremendous benefit, billions of dollars of benefit to these local cell phone companies, and it's really not fair to the local taxpayers."

Horan and other county leaders across the state also worry about what all of the cell equipment will look like aesthetically.

"Instead of a wind-farm you have a 5G pole farm," said Horan.

La Rosa says lawmakers revised the bill to make sure local leaders have a say in what the cell equipment will look like in each community.

"We looked at specific types of poles and made sure those poles wouldn't be affected, or were very specific on where they can be located on the pole," said La Rosa.

The bill passed in the Florida House and Senate, and it is now up to the governor to sign it into law.

If that happens, the law would take effect July 1.

**LATEST NEWS: FLORIDA**

- [Adam Putnam enters the governor's race](#)
- [Gov. Scott signs Uber/Lyft Bill, 10 other bills into law](#)
- [Rep. Jay Fant announces campaign for state attorney general](#)
- [UCF PTSD clinic gets funding in Florida budget; needs Gov. Scott's signature](#)
- [Gov. Scott blasts fellow Republicans over Florida budget](#)
- [Teen threw 68-year-old woman into pool, Broward Sheriff's Office says](#)
- [Judge agrees to toss Aaron Hernandez's murder conviction](#)
- [Publix recalls artichoke, spinach dip](#)
- [Florida Senate, House pass budget, ending session](#)



A new president. An emboldened Republican Congress. This year, we're seeing huge political changes at the federal level.

Bookmark our D.C. Digest page to get the latest news, important dates and learn how to contact your representatives.

[News from Washington](#) | [Find your congressman](#) | [Washington D.C. calendar](#) | [Nomination scorecard](#)

**GET THE BAY NEWS 9+ APP**



Download the [Bay News 9+ app](#) for the latest News, Weather and Real Time Traffic at your fingertips.

- LIVE interactive Klystron 9 map
- Custom Safety Net storm alerts
- LIVE interactive Real Time traffic
- Upload pictures to Bay News 9 from the app

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Find out what's happening in your neighborhood and submit your event now!

- [All Events](#)
- [Manatee County](#)
- [Citrus County](#)
- [Pasco County](#)
- [Hernando County](#)
- [Pinellas County](#)
- [Hillsborough County](#)
- [Polk County](#)

**BREAKING NEWS ALERTS**



Get instant [Severe Weather & Breaking News](#) alerts delivered directly to your cell phone or email with [Bay News 9 NOW](#). It's easy to sign up!

**SWIM AT HOME**  
YEAR-ROUND, INDOORS OR OUT  
[REQUEST YOUR FREE IDEA KIT](#)