provisions in the Act that—among others—prevent local governments from requiring small cells to be colocated on existing poles. Local governments are currently authorized to propose design alternatives—which could include colocation on existing poles—during the application review process, offering an opportunity for applicants to collaborate on solutions acceptable to both parties.

Because aesthetic concerns are unlikely to diminish as the number of small cells increases, the Commission makes two recommendations:

- As already authorized under the Act, local governments are encouraged to both update existing ordinances that set aesthetic standards for their communities to ensure their requirements apply to small cells and include small cells in any new standards they adopt.
- The General Assembly could consider authorizing local governments to require colocation of small cells in areas with existing poles. Care would need to be taken to ensure this authority could not be used to block the deployment of small cells in situations where applicants can demonstrate that colocation is not feasible either for technical reasons or because of added costs, similar to limitations on colocation requirements adopted in Georgia. Regardless, some new poles will be necessary to improve wireless service given the limited distance traveled by some of the wireless signals used by providers. And because colocation will likely involve the use of electric utility poles, any colocation requirements should also ensure the continued authority of local power companies to protect the safety and reliability of the electric grid.

See TACIR's full report at the following link for additional information: https://www.tn.gov/tacir/tacir-publications.html.