

Chapter 29

(Senate Bill 401)

AN ACT concerning

Underground Utility Damage Prevention – Connecting Buildings to Water Supply Systems and Sewerage Systems – Detectable Wires

FOR the purpose of requiring that any new or replacement piping that is buried or installed for the purpose of connecting a building to a water supply system or a sewerage system be buried or installed with a certain wire that makes the piping detectable; requiring that the wire buried or installed with the piping meet certain product criteria, and certain installation criteria, and run from certain locations along the piping and water supply system or sewerage system; providing for the scope and application of this Act; and generally relating to underground utility damage prevention through the use of detectable wires to connect buildings to water supply systems or sewerage systems.

BY adding to

Article – Environment
Section 9–223.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – Public Utilities
Section 12–129 and 24–107
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Environment

9–223.1.

ANY NEW OR REPLACEMENT PIPING THAT IS BURIED OR INSTALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONNECTING A BUILDING TO A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR A SEWERAGE SYSTEM SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 12–129 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE.

Article – Public Utilities

12–129.

(A) ~~ANY~~ SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, ANY NEW OR REPLACEMENT PIPING THAT IS BURIED OR INSTALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONNECTING A BUILDING TO A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR A SEWERAGE SYSTEM SHALL BE BURIED OR INSTALLED WITH A WIRE THAT MAKES THE PIPING DETECTABLE.

(B) THE WIRE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL:

(1) BE AN INSULATED COPPER TRACER WIRE THAT IS SUITABLE FOR DIRECT BURIAL AND HAS AN AMERICAN WIRE GAUGE (AWG) OF AT LEAST 10, OR AN EQUIVALENT PRODUCT;

(2) BE INSTALLED:

(I) IN THE SAME TRENCH AS THE PIPING THAT CONNECTS THE BUILDING TO THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM;

(II) WITHIN 12 INCHES OF THE PIPING THAT CONNECTS THE BUILDING TO THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM; AND

(III) WITH AT LEAST ONE END OF THE WIRE TERMINATING ABOVE GRADE IN A LOCATION THAT IS ACCESSIBLE AND RESISTANT TO PHYSICAL DAMAGE, SUCH AS IN A CLEANOUT OR NEXT TO AN EXTERNAL WALL OF THE BUILDING; AND

(3) RUN FROM WITHIN 5 FEET OF AN EXTERNAL WALL OF THE BUILDING TO:

(I) THE POINT WHERE THE PIPING INTERSECTS WITH THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM; ~~AND~~ OR

(II) THE POINT WHERE THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM DISPOSES OF OR PROCESSES THE SEWAGE.

(C) THE REQUIREMENT OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION WITH REGARD TO REPLACEMENT PIPING CONNECTING A BUILDING TO A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR A SEWERAGE SYSTEM:

(1) APPLIES ONLY TO A COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF THE PIPING; AND

(2) DOES NOT APPLY TO A REPAIR OR A PARTIAL REPLACEMENT OF THE PIPING.

24-107.

ANY NEW OR REPLACEMENT PIPING THAT IS BURIED OR INSTALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONNECTING A BUILDING TO A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OR A SEWERAGE SYSTEM SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 12-129 OF THIS ARTICLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any new or replacement piping that is buried or installed for the purpose of connecting a building to a water supply system or a sewerage system before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2015.