

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1425 (Delegate Klausmeier, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Finance

Underground Facilities - Owner-Contractor Information Exchange System

This bill requires the operator of a one-call system to install, and make available to any caller at all times, an “owner-contractor information exchange system.” An owner-contractor information exchange system is an automated voice response unit for the purpose of identifying the location of underground utility equipment. The bill also requires that a one-call system provide a toll-free number for persons to call and notify owner-members of underground facilities of a planned excavation or demolition and maintain an owner-contractor information exchange system.

The bill provides that a person may begin an excavation or demolition only after contacting or receiving notification from the owner-contractor exchange system and confirming that all applicable owners have either marked their underground facilities or reported that they have no facilities in the vicinity of the excavation or demolition. Within 48 hours of the original notification, an owner or designee must contact the owner-contractor information exchange system and report if the site is marked or is clear of the owner’s underground facilities. The one-call center shall recontact any owner that fails to respond within 48 hours.

The bill is effective July 1, 2001.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any additional work for the Public Service Commission could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A person that intends to do excavation or demolition work must notify by telephone or through the one-call system each person that owns or operates an underground facility (owner) at least 48 hours, but no more than ten working days, before starting the excavation or demolition work.

A one-call system is a communications network in the State that allows a person to telephone a one-number utility protection system.

Background: A one-call system is a statewide single telephone number communications system that dispenses information regarding the location of underground utility equipment such as wires, pipes, and cables.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 879 (Senator Bromwell) – Finance.

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 12, 2001
ncs/jr Revised – Senate Third Reader – April 5, 2001

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