

HF47 - 0 - Telecom. Installer Certification Reqmts. Modified

Chief Author: **Isaac Schultz**
 Committee: **Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development
Finance and Policy**
 Date Completed: **2/24/2025 3:05:16 PM**
 Lead Agency: **Labor and Industry Dept**
 Other Agencies:
 Employment and Economic
 Dvlpmt

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.
 Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
State Total						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)		Biennium			Biennium	
		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total		-	-	-	-	-

Lead LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Karl Palm **Date:** 2/24/2025 3:05:16 PM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

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 Agency: **Labor and Industry Dept**

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Dollars in Thousands					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
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Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Karl Palm **Date:** 2/24/2025 3:04:27 PM
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Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Bill Description

This bill modifies provisions governing the certification of underground telecommunications installers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 326B.198, subdivisions 2, 3.

MS 326B.198 (2024) requires that the installation of underground telecommunications infrastructure that is located within 10 feet of existing underground utilities or that crosses the existing underground utilities be performed by a certified safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer (Installer). Notably, this bill:

- Reduces the duration of the required certification training for Installers from 40 hours to 10 hours

- Changes the beginning effective date to January 1, 2026, state-wide, which eliminates the current staggered effective date for the seven-county metropolitan area (July 1, 2025);

- Exempts the installation of underground telecommunications infrastructure on private property under 36 inches in depth (essentially exempting residential areas); and

- Eliminates the requirement that no fewer than two Installers be present at all times at any location where telecommunications infrastructure is being installed by means of directional drilling.

Assumptions

The Commissioner of Labor and Industry (DLI) is responsible for overseeing standards for the safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer certification program. This authority includes approving training programs, and an accompanying exam, submitted by external providers for trainees to demonstrate knowledge of the course materials. Certification would require applicants to complete a 10-hour initial course and pass an exam administered through a department-approved training provider. The certification is valid for three years, and a four-hour refresher course is required every three years thereafter to maintain certification.

The certification requirement is similar to that of individual pipelayers who are required to complete pipe laying training as prescribed by the commissioner (Minn. Stat. 326B.46, subd. 1); however, department-approved training providers manage the logistics of the certification program. DLI approved training providers administer the initial course and prescribed exam and issue corresponding certifications. With this individual certificate requirement, there is no requirement that the Installer's employer hold any type of business license or file a bond with the Department.

The changes outlined in this bill would not impact the current staff time dedicated to this certification program. DLI staff would continue to review training programs, exams, refresher courses, monitor & update relevant resources, and provide guidance and direction to stakeholders.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

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Chief Author: **Isaac Schultz**
 Committee: **Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy**
 Date Completed: **2/24/2025 3:05:16 PM**
 Agency: **Employment and Economic Dvlpmnt**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
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	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
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LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Karl Palm **Date:** 2/20/2025 9:17:50 PM
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Biennial Total				-		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Bill Description

SF-908 would revise installation requirements for underground telecommunications and reduce the number of hours required for certification standards from 40 hours to 10 hours.

Assumptions

The Office of Broadband Development (OBD) within the Department of Employment and Economic Development already consults on these standards with other agencies as part of Minnesota Statute 326B.198. As this bill would only revise the standards' requirements, there is no additional cost to the agency.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**Long-Term Fiscal Considerations****Local Fiscal Impact****References/Sources****Agency Contact:**

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