

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 163

SESSION: 2004 Regular Session

TOPIC: Amendments to the One Call Excavation Notice System

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Overview

Chapter 163 makes several amendments to the One Call Excavation Notice System.

Section

- 1** **Definition; utility quality level.** Defines “utility quality level” as a professional opinion about the quality and reliability of utility information that is based on guidelines established by the American Society of Civil Engineers.
- 2** Retains the provision in current law requiring excavators to give at least 48 hours advance notice of an excavation, but specifies that notice cannot be given more than 14 days in advance. This section deletes language specifying the content requirements for a boundary survey notice.
- 3** Adds the requirement that information supplied by operators of underground facilities affected by an excavation and submitted on the final drawing used for the bid or contract must include the utility quality level of that information.

A person required by this section to show existing underground facilities on its drawings must arrange one or more meetings in both the preliminary design and preconstruction phases of the project in order to communicate the project design and coordinate utility relocation. Affected facility operators and contractors must attend these meetings or otherwise provide information.

- 4** **Technical.**
- 5** **Locating underground facility; operator.** Specifies requirements for operators of facilities

Section

affected by an excavation to mark underground facilities prior to excavation.

Broadens the indemnity established under existing statutes for any claims, costs, or damages resulting from the provision of information regarding underground facilities. Any person providing such information, not just a facility operator, as is specified in current law, is indemnified. Such protection is also extended to information regarding private and customer-owned underground facilities, in addition to abandoned and out-of-service facilities specified in current law.

- 6** **Locating underground facility; excavator or land surveyor.** Repeals the current requirement that an excavator or land surveyor notify the notification center of an excavation or boundary survey that is postponed. Provides that a notice is valid for 14 days following the start time, and that, if the excavation will continue past the expiration time, additional notice must be served at least 48 hours prior to expiration, unless the excavator arranges with the operator to periodically verify or refresh the marks, in which case the notice is valid for six months.

Makes an excavator responsible for protecting and preserving the marks, and requires an excavator to notify a facility operator or the notification center if the marks need to be verified or refreshed by the facility operator.

- 7** **Technical.**