

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 995

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**Version:** First engrossment

**Authors:** Cox

**Subject:** Amendments to the One Call Excavation Notice System

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### Overview

House File 995 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 Notice required.** Adds to current law a procedure an excavator must follow to give notice of excavation in an emergency. Notice must be given to the notification center before, or as soon as practicable, after, excavation begins, and an excavator must provide at least one continuously staffed phone number where the excavator may be contacted. Any person engaged in an emergency excavation must take all necessary and reasonable precautions to avoid or minimize damage to existing underground facilities.

In non-emergency situations, the bill retains the provision in current law requiring advance notice of at least 48 hours, but specifies that notice cannot be given more than 14 days in advance of excavation. When an excavator requests a meeting with operators of a facility affected by an excavation, the notification center shall issue a notice with an excavation start time 24 hours after the time of the request, unless the excavator has proposed a later start time.

## Section

This section deletes language specifying the content requirements for a boundary survey notice.

**3 Plans for excavation.** 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.

**4 Technical.**

**5 Locating underground facility; operator.** Specifies requirements for operators of facilities affected by an excavation to mark underground facilities prior to excavation. Operators must use reasonable efforts to locate and mark any portion of interconnected, privately owned underground facilities that are in a public right-of-way.

Operators receiving an emergency notice shall attempt to contact the excavator within one hour to provide information on facilities at the excavation site. Operators shall make any necessary markings within two hours or by the start time, whichever is later, unless the operator cannot respond within two hours or determines that the absence of marking would not endanger public safety.

**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. 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.**