

ASSEMBLY, No. 4658

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 29, 2015

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ELIZABETH MAHER MUOIO
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Requires public utility employees to immediately place 9-1-1 call to report emergencies that arise from work conducted by public utility employees.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT requiring public utility employees to notify 9-1-1 of certain
2 emergencies and supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

9 “Base rate case” shall have the same meaning as provided in
10 section 2 of P.L.1995, c.180, (48:2-21.25).

11 “Board” means the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities or any
12 successor agency.

13 “Emergency” means any condition that is a clear and present
14 danger to life, health, or property.

15 “Public utility” means a “public utility” as provided in R.S.48:2-
16 13, a municipal system or a rural electric cooperative as provided in
17 section 39 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-88), a “cable television
18 company” as provided in section 3 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-3),
19 a “local exchange telecommunications company” as provided in
20 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.428 (C.48:2-21.17), and any governmental
21 entity that provides water or sewer services to customers in this
22 State.

23 “Public utility employee” or “employee” means any person who
24 works on behalf of a public utility.

25

26 2. a. A public utility employee shall immediately place a 9-1-1
27 call to report an emergency which results from or is associated with
28 work performed by a public utility employee. A public utility shall
29 implement a program to ensure its employees are trained as to
30 matters, which include, but are not limited to:

31 (1) the roles, responsibilities, and anticipated sequence of
32 actions for all of its emergency response personnel;

33 (2) locating natural gas pipelines and identifying natural gas
34 leaks; and

35 (3) the importance of local emergency response assistance.

36 b. A violation of subsection a. of this section shall result in a
37 fine imposed by the board in the amount of \$5,000 for the first
38 offense, \$10,000 for the second offense, and \$20,000 for the third
39 and each subsequent offense. Any fine imposed pursuant to this
40 subsection shall not be recoverable in a base rate case.

41

42 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
43 inoperative for 90 days from the effective date.

44

45

46

STATEMENT

47

48 This bill requires public utility employees to immediately place a
49 9-1-1 call to report an emergency which results from or is

1 associated with work performed by a public utility employee.

2 The bill also requires a public utility to implement a program to
3 ensure its employees are trained as to matters, which include, but
4 are not limited to: (1) the roles, responsibilities, and anticipated
5 sequence of actions for all of its emergency response personnel; (2)
6 locating natural gas pipelines and identifying natural gas leaks; and
7 (3) the importance of local emergency response assistance. Under
8 the bill, “public utility employee” means any person who works on
9 behalf of a public utility, including, but not limited to an employee
10 or a subcontractor of a public utility.

11 A violation of the bill’s provisions is to result in a fine imposed
12 by the Board of Public Utilities in the amount of \$5,000 for the first
13 offense, \$10,000 for the second offense, and \$20,000 for the third
14 and each subsequent offense. Any fine imposed pursuant to the
15 bill’s provisions is not to be recoverable by a public utility in a base
16 rate case.