

ASSEMBLY, No. 2580

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Caputo

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.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

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

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

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

9 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities or any successor
10 agency.

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

13 “Public utility” means a “public utility” as provided in R.S.48:2-
14 13, a municipal system or a rural electric cooperative as provided in
15 section 39 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-88), a “cable television
16 company” as provided in section 3 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-3),
17 a “local exchange telecommunications company” as provided in
18 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.428 (C.48:2-21.17), and any governmental
19 entity that provides water or sewer services to customers in this
20 State.

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

23

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

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

31 (2) locating natural gas pipelines and identifying natural gas
32 leaks; and

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

34 b. A violation of subsection a. of this section shall result in a
35 fine imposed by the board in the amount of \$5,000 for the first
36 offense, \$10,000 for the second offense, and \$20,000 for the third
37 and each subsequent offense. Any fine imposed on a public utility
38 pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
39 this bill) shall not be recoverable from ratepayers.

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

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45 STATEMENT

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47 This bill requires a public utility employee to immediately place
48 a 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.

10 The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is to impose a fine for a
11 violation of the bill’s provisions in the amount of \$5,000 for the
12 first offense, \$10,000 for the second offense, and \$20,000 for the
13 third and each subsequent offense. Any fine imposed on a public
14 utility pursuant to the bill’s provisions is not to be recoverable from
15 ratepayers.