

SENATE, No. 940

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires utility service providers to notify BPU of scheduled service work; permits government agencies and utility service providers to access BPU online database of scheduled service work.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning notice of certain utility service provider work
2 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 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities or any successor
10 agency.

11 “Emergency” means any condition constituting a clear and
12 present danger to life, health, or property requiring a utility service
13 provider to immediately undertake service work.

14 “Government agency” means any department, public authority,
15 public agency, public commission, or other political subdivision of
16 the State, including any county, municipality or political
17 subdivision thereof.

18 “Operator” and “underground facility” shall have the same
19 meaning as provided in section 3 of P.L.1994, c.118 (C.48:2-75).

20 “Utility service provider” means a public utility, as defined in
21 R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric, gas, sewerage, or water service,
22 a government agency-operated provider of electric, sewerage, or
23 water service, or an operator of an underground facility.

24
25 2. a. The Board of Public Utilities shall create, maintain, and
26 update, as appropriate, an online database providing real-time
27 information on the date and type of scheduled utility service work.
28 The online database shall serve as an online resource for a
29 government agency to plan utility service work, roadwork, and
30 other related work within a public right-of-way. The online
31 database shall be accessible by any government agency and utility
32 service provider and shall be designed and function in a manner that
33 maximizes communication among all government agencies and
34 utility service providers that may be impacted by scheduled utility
35 service work.

36 b. Except as provided in subsection c. of this section, a utility
37 service provider shall submit to the Board of Public Utilities
38 electronic notice and detailed information of scheduled utility
39 service work, pursuant to subsection a. of this section, at least five
40 business days prior to the date the utility service provider performs
41 the service work. The board shall maintain the information on the
42 online database until the service work is completed, cancelled, or
43 rescheduled.

44 c. If a utility service provider undertakes service work in
45 response to an emergency, the utility service provider shall submit
46 to the board electronic notice and detailed information of the
47 service work as soon as possible after the beginning of the
48 emergency.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
2 inoperative for 60 days following the date of enactment.

3

4

5

STATEMENT

6

7 This bill requires Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to create,
8 maintain, and update, as appropriate, an online database providing
9 real-time information on the date and type of scheduled utility
10 service work. The online database shall serve as an online resource
11 for a government agency to plan utility service work, roadwork, and
12 other related work within a public right-of-way. The online
13 database is to be accessible by any “government agency” and
14 “utility service provider,” as those terms are defined in the bill, and
15 is to be designed and function in a manner that maximizes
16 communication among all government agencies and utility service
17 providers that may be impacted by scheduled utility service work.

18 The bill requires a utility service provider to submit to the BPU
19 electronic notice and detailed information of scheduled utility
20 service work at least five business days prior to the date the utility
21 service provider performs the service work. The BPU is to maintain
22 the information on the online database until the service work is
23 completed, cancelled, or rescheduled.

24 The bill provides for an exception to the prior notice requirement
25 for service work if the work is undertaken in response to an
26 “emergency” as that term is defined in the bill. If the work is
27 undertaken in response to an emergency, a utility service provider is
28 to submit to the BPU electronic notice and detailed information of
29 the work as soon as possible after the beginning of the emergency.