

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1892

Date: 2/20/20

(Filing No. H-685)

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1358, L.D. 1892, Bill, "An Act To Make Changes to the So-called Dig Safe Law"

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the September 16, 2019 explosion in Farmington demonstrates the tragic consequences that can result from unmarked underground liquefied propane gas pipes; and

Whereas, the exemption of certain underground liquefied propane gas facilities from the so-called dig safe law poses a clear danger to excavators and the public; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period to address, as soon as possible, this significant safety risk by making liquefied propane gas distribution systems that have underground pipes subject to the so-called dig safe law; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'

Amend the bill by adding before the summary the following:

'Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1

SUMMARY

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This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1892

LR 2905(02)

An Act To Make Changes to the So-called Dig Safe Law

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A(14-685)*

Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor revenue increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Minor cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill makes liquefied propane gas distribution systems with underground facilities subject to the so-called dig safe law. It also increases administrative penalties for violations of the dig safe law from \$500 to \$1000 for an initial violation and from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for subsequent violations occurring within 12 months of an earlier violation. The increased penalties will increase Other Special Revenue Funds revenue for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The additional revenue is not anticipated to be significant. Any additional costs to the PUC as a result of including liquefied propane gas distribution systems in the dig safe law are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.