



SENATE BILL 242 *PA One Call Law*

Highlights:

- Reestablishes the One Call law to December 31, 2024.
- Transfers enforcement authority from the Department of Labor and Industry to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), which is consistent with current regulatory obligations and is supported by the Governor's Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force and the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).
- In Class 1 rural areas, requires participation in PA One Call by all facility owners with nonconventional oil or natural gas pipelines and those conventional oil and natural gas pipelines with a diameter greater than 8".
- Requires mandatory reporting of all underground facility damages.
- Requires participation in the One Call Systems Member Mapping Solutions if the facility owner has existing maps of the line or facility and requires mapping lines moving forward.
- Provides for an assessment of 80 percent on regulated public utilities and 20 percent on PA One Call for enforcement, attempting to share the burden. Currently, regulated public utilities are 80 percent of the workload for One Call.
- Establishes a Damage Prevention Committee comprised of the PUC, Secretary of PennDOT, facility owners, a representative of PA One Call, excavators, municipalities and municipal authorities to review investigations and take formal action.



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Advantages of PUC Enforcement:

- PUC currently regulates public utilities and enforces safety standards for some pipelines that are required to participate in PA One Call.
- PUC proposes a dedicated enforcement staff for PA One Call.
- PUC has an existing Administrative Law Judge System for adjudications and proposes an alternative dispute resolution process.

Why this Bill is Necessary:

- Current One Call law will sunset on December 31, 2017.
- Federal law requires states to remove exemptions or face the loss of pipeline safety monies. Pennsylvania has now lost \$750,000 in federal Damage Prevention / One Call grants due to inaction.
- There are 6,000+ “hits” every year (approximately half involving natural gas lines) because facility owners do not join PA One Call, excavators do not call, lines are mismarked or unmarked and infrastructure owners do not respond to requests. All of these instances jeopardize public safety, place workers at risk, compromise infrastructure, trigger outages, generate environmental hazards and cost consumers, businesses, and utilities time and money. Preventing this unnecessary damage will provide increased safety and reduce costs.

