



191488

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/27/2020	.	
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The Committee on Rules (Flores) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Present subsections (8) and (9) through (14) of  
section 556.102, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
subsections (10) and (12) through (17), respectively, and new  
subsections (8), (9), and (11) are added to that section, to  
read:

556.102 Definitions.—As used in this act:

(8) "High-priority subsurface installation" means an



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12 underground gas transmission or gas distribution pipeline, or an  
13 underground pipeline used to transport gasoline, jet fuel, or  
14 any other refined petroleum product or hazardous or highly  
15 volatile liquid, such as anhydrous ammonia or carbon dioxide, if  
16 the pipeline is deemed to be critical by the operator of the  
17 pipeline and is identified as a high-priority subsurface  
18 installation to an excavator who has provided a notice of intent  
19 to excavate under s. 556.105(1), or would have been identified  
20 as a high-priority subsurface installation except for the  
21 excavator's failure to give proper notice of intent to excavate.

22 (9) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a  
23 high-priority subsurface installation that has been identified  
24 as such by the operator according to the notification procedures  
25 set forth in s. 556.116(1) and that:

26 (a) Results in death or serious bodily injury requiring  
27 inpatient hospitalization.

28 (b) Results in property damage, including service-  
29 restoration costs, in an amount in excess of \$50,000 or an  
30 interruption of service to 2,500 or more customers.

31 (11) "Permanent marker" means a clearly visible indication  
32 of the approximate location of an underground facility which is  
33 made of material that is durable in nature and which is  
34 reasonably expected to remain in position for the life of the  
35 underground facility.

36 Section 2. Section 556.107, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
37 read:

38 556.107 Violations.—

39 (1) NONCRIMINAL INFRACTIONS.—

40 (a) 1. Violations of the following provisions are



41 noncriminal infractions:

42 ~~a.1.~~ Section 556.105(1), relating to providing required  
43 information.

44 b. Section 556.105(5)(c), relating to excavation practices  
45 in tolerance zones.

46 ~~c.2.~~ Section 556.105(6), relating to the avoidance of  
47 excavation.

48 ~~d.3.~~ Section 556.105(11), relating to the need to stop  
49 excavation or demolition because marks are no longer visible,  
50 or, in the case of underwater facilities, are inadequately  
51 documented.

52 ~~e.4.~~ Section 556.105(12), relating to the need to cease  
53 excavation or demolition activities because of contact or damage  
54 to an underground facility.

55 ~~f.5.~~ Section 556.105(5)(a) and (b), relating to  
56 identification of underground facilities, if a member operator  
57 does not mark an underground facility, but not if a member  
58 operator marks an underground facility incorrectly.

59 ~~g.6.~~ Section 556.109(2), relating to falsely notifying the  
60 system of an emergency situation or condition.

61 ~~h.7.~~ Section 556.114(1), (2), (3), and (4), relating to a  
62 failure to follow low-impact marking practices, as defined  
63 therein.

64 2. Violations of the following provisions involving an  
65 underground facility transporting hazardous materials that are  
66 regulated by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
67 Administration of the United States Department of Transportation  
68 are noncriminal infractions, subject to enhanced civil penalties  
69 under paragraph (c):



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70 a. Section 556.105(1), relating to providing required  
71 information.

72 b. Section 556.105(5)(c), relating to excavation practices  
73 in tolerance zones.

74 c. Section 556.105(6), relating to the avoidance of certain  
75 excavation.

76 d. Section 556.105(11), relating to the need to stop  
77 excavation or demolition because certain marks are removed, no  
78 longer visible, or inadequately documented.

79 e. Section 556.105(12), relating to the need to cease  
80 excavation or demolition activities because of contact or damage  
81 to an underground facility.

82 (b) Any excavator or member operator who commits a  
83 noncriminal infraction under paragraph (a) may be issued a  
84 citation by the State Fire Marshal or his or her agents as  
85 provided in ss. 633.114 and 633.116; the fire chief of the  
86 special district, municipality, or county; or any local or state  
87 law enforcement officer, government code inspector, or code  
88 enforcement officer, and the issuer of a citation may require an  
89 excavator to cease work on any excavation or not start a  
90 proposed excavation until there has been compliance with the  
91 provisions of this chapter. Citations shall be hand delivered to  
92 any employee of the excavator or member operator who is involved  
93 in the noncriminal infraction. The citation shall be issued in  
94 the name of the excavator or member operator, whichever is  
95 applicable.

96 (c) 1. Any excavator or member operator who commits a  
97 noncriminal infraction under subparagraph (a)1. paragraph (a)  
98 may be required to pay a civil penalty of \$500 plus court costs



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99 for each infraction, ~~which is \$500 plus court costs.~~ If a  
100 citation is issued ~~by a state law enforcement officer, a local~~  
101 ~~law enforcement officer, a local government code inspector, or a~~  
102 ~~code enforcement officer,~~ 80 percent of the civil penalty  
103 collected by the clerk of the court must ~~shall~~ be distributed to  
104 the governmental entity whose employee issued the citation and  
105 20 percent of the penalty must ~~shall~~ be retained by the clerk ~~to~~  
106 ~~cover administrative costs,~~ in addition to any other court  
107 costs. ~~Any person who fails to properly respond to a citation~~  
108 ~~issued pursuant to paragraph (b) shall, in addition to the~~  
109 ~~citation, be charged with the offense of failing to respond to~~  
110 ~~the citation and, upon conviction, commits a misdemeanor of the~~  
111 ~~second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.~~  
112 ~~775.083. A written warning to this effect must be provided at~~  
113 ~~the time any citation is issued pursuant to paragraph (b).~~

114 2. Any excavator or member operator who commits a  
115 noncriminal infraction under subparagraph (a)2. may be required  
116 to pay an enhanced civil penalty of \$2,500 plus court costs for  
117 each infraction. If a citation is issued, 80 percent of the  
118 civil penalty collected by the clerk of the court must be  
119 distributed to the governmental entity whose employee issued the  
120 citation and 20 percent must be retained by the clerk in  
121 addition to any court costs.

122 3. Any person who willfully fails to properly respond to a  
123 citation issued under paragraph (b) shall, in addition to the  
124 citation, be charged with the offense of failing to respond to  
125 the citation and, upon conviction, commits a misdemeanor of the  
126 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
127 775.083. A written warning to this effect must be provided at



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128 the time a citation is issued under paragraph (b).

129 (d) Any person cited for an infraction under paragraph (a)  
130 or s. 556.116(2)(c) may post a bond, which must ~~shall~~ be equal  
131 in amount to the applicable civil penalty plus any additional  
132 court costs.

133 (e) A person charged with a noncriminal infraction under  
134 paragraph (a) or s. 556.116(2)(c) may pay the applicable civil  
135 penalty plus the additional court costs, by mail or in person,  
136 within 30 days after the date of receiving the citation. If the  
137 person cited pays the civil penalty, she or he is deemed to have  
138 admitted to committing the infraction and to have waived the  
139 right to a hearing on the issue of commission of the infraction.  
140 The admission may be used as evidence in any other proceeding  
141 under this chapter.

142 (f) Any person may elect to have a hearing on the  
143 commission of the infraction ~~appear~~ before the county court. A  
144 person who elects to have a hearing waives ~~and if so electing is~~  
145 ~~deemed to have waived~~ the limitations on the civil penalties  
146 ~~penalty~~ specified in paragraph (c). The court, after a hearing,  
147 shall make a determination as to whether an infraction has been  
148 committed. If the commission of an infraction has been proven,  
149 the court may impose a ~~civil~~ penalty not to exceed the  
150 applicable civil penalty ~~\$5,000~~ plus court costs for each  
151 infraction. In determining the amount of the civil penalty, the  
152 court may consider previous noncriminal infractions committed.

153 (g) At a court hearing under this chapter, the commission  
154 of a charged infraction must be proven by a preponderance of the  
155 evidence.

156 (h) If the court finds that a person ~~is found by a judge or~~



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157 ~~hearing official to have~~ committed an infraction, the person may  
158 appeal that finding or the amount of the civil penalties imposed  
159 to the circuit court.

160 (i) Sunshine State One-Call of Florida, Inc., may, at its  
161 own cost, retain an attorney to assist in the presentation of  
162 relevant facts and law in the county court proceeding pertaining  
163 to the citation issued under this section. The corporation may  
164 also appear in any case appealed to the circuit court if a  
165 county court judge finds that an infraction of the chapter was  
166 committed. An appellant in the ~~circuit~~ court proceeding shall  
167 timely notify the corporation of any appeal under this section.

168 (2) REPORT OF INFRACTIONS.—By March 31 of each year, each  
169 clerk of court shall submit a report to the State Fire Marshal  
170 and Sunshine State One-Call of Florida, Inc., listing each  
171 citation issued for a violation ~~notice written~~ under paragraph  
172 (1) (a) and s. 556.116(2) (c) which has been filed in that county  
173 during the preceding calendar year. The report must state the  
174 name and address of the member or excavator who committed each  
175 infraction, the enforcement authority, the specific statutory  
176 infraction, and the type of underground facility related to the  
177 infraction and must indicate whether or not the civil penalty  
178 for the infraction was paid.

179 (3) MISDEMEANORS.—

180 (a) Any person who knowingly and willfully removes or  
181 otherwise destroys the valid stakes or other valid physical  
182 markings described in s. 556.105(5) (a) and (b) used to mark the  
183 horizontal route of an underground facility commits a  
184 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.  
185 775.082 or s. 775.083. For purposes of this subsection, stakes



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186 or other nonpermanent physical markings are considered valid for  
187 30 calendar days after information is provided to the system  
188 under s. 556.105(1) (a).

189 (b) Any person who knowingly and willfully removes or  
190 damages a permanent marker placed to identify the approximate  
191 location of an underground facility commits a misdemeanor of the  
192 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
193 775.083.

194 Section 3. Section 556.116, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
195 read:

196 556.116 High-priority subsurface installations; special  
197 procedures.-

198 ~~(1) As used in this section, the term:~~

199 ~~(a) "Division" means the Division of Administrative~~  
200 ~~Hearings.~~

201 ~~(b) "High-priority subsurface installation" means an~~  
202 ~~underground gas transmission or gas distribution pipeline, an~~  
203 ~~underground pipeline used to transport gasoline, jet fuel, or~~  
204 ~~any other refined petroleum product or hazardous or highly~~  
205 ~~volatile liquid, such as anhydrous ammonia or carbon dioxide, if~~  
206 ~~the pipeline is deemed to be critical by the operator of the~~  
207 ~~pipeline and is identified as a high-priority subsurface~~  
208 ~~installation to an excavator who has provided a notice of intent~~  
209 ~~to excavate pursuant to s. 556.105(1), or would have been~~  
210 ~~identified as a high-priority subsurface installation except for~~  
211 ~~the excavator's failure to give proper notice of intent to~~  
212 ~~excavate.~~

213 ~~(c) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a~~  
214 ~~high-priority subsurface installation that has been identified~~





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215 ~~as such by the operator according to the notification procedures~~  
216 ~~set forth in subsection (2) and that:~~

217 ~~1. Results in death or serious bodily injury requiring~~  
218 ~~inpatient hospitalization.~~

219 ~~2. Results in property damage, including service-~~  
220 ~~restoration costs, in an amount in excess of \$50,000 or~~  
221 ~~interruption of service to 2,500 or more customers.~~

222 ~~(1)~~(2) When an excavator proposes to excavate or demolish  
223 within 15 feet of the horizontal route of an underground  
224 facility that has been identified as a high-priority subsurface  
225 installation by the operator of the facility, the operator  
226 shall, in addition to identifying the horizontal route of its  
227 facility as set forth in s. 556.105(5) (a) and (b), and within  
228 the time period set forth in s. 556.105(9) (a) for a positive  
229 response, notify the excavator that the facility is a high-  
230 priority subsurface installation. If the member operator  
231 provides such timely notice of the existence of a high-priority  
232 subsurface installation, an excavator shall notify the operator  
233 of the planned excavation start date and time before beginning  
234 excavation. If the member operator does not provide timely  
235 notice, the excavator may proceed, after waiting the prescribed  
236 time period set forth in s. 556.105(9) (a), to excavate without  
237 notifying the member operator of the excavation start date and  
238 time. The exemptions stated in s. 556.108 apply to the  
239 notification requirements in this subsection.

240 ~~(2) (a)~~(3) (a) An alleged commission of an infraction listed  
241 in s. 556.107(1) which results in an incident must be reported  
242 to the system and the State Fire Marshal by a member operator or  
243 an excavator within 24 hours after learning of the alleged



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244 occurrence of an incident.

245 (b) Upon receipt of an allegation that an incident has  
246 occurred, the member operator or excavator system shall transmit  
247 an incident report to the State Fire Marshal, who shall ~~division~~  
248 ~~and contract with the division so that the division may~~ conduct  
249 an investigation ~~a hearing~~ to determine whether an incident has  
250 occurred, and, if so, whether a violation of s. 556.107(1)(a)  
251 was a proximate cause of the incident. The State Fire Marshal  
252 may authorize his or her agents as provided in ss. 633.114,  
253 633.116, and 633.118 to conduct investigations of incidents ~~The~~  
254 ~~contract for services to be performed by the division must~~  
255 ~~include provisions for the system to reimburse the division for~~  
256 ~~any costs incurred by the division for court reporters,~~  
257 ~~transcript preparation, travel, facility rental, and other~~  
258 ~~customary hearing costs, in the manner set forth in s.~~  
259 ~~120.65(9).~~

260 (c) The State Fire Marshal or his or her agents as provided  
261 in ss. 633.114, 633.116, and 633.118 ~~division has jurisdiction~~  
262 ~~in a proceeding under this section to determine the facts and~~  
263 ~~law concerning an alleged incident. The division may~~ issue a  
264 citation and impose a civil penalty ~~fine~~ against a violator in  
265 an amount not to exceed \$50,000 if the person violated a  
266 provision of s. 556.107(1)(a) and that violation was a proximate  
267 cause of the incident. However, if a state agency or political  
268 subdivision caused the incident, the state agency or political  
269 subdivision may not be fined in an amount in excess of \$10,000.

270 (d) The civil penalty ~~A fine~~ imposed under this subsection  
271 ~~by the division~~ is in addition to any amount payable as a result  
272 of a citation relating to the incident under s. 556.107(1)(a).



273           (e) If an additional civil penalty is imposed by the State  
274 Fire Marshal or his or her agents, 5 percent of the civil  
275 penalty must be retained by the clerk to cover administrative  
276 costs, and the remainder of the civil penalty must be  
277 distributed equally between the system and the State Fire  
278 Marshal. The portion of the civil penalty distributed to the  
279 system must be used exclusively to fund damage-prevention  
280 education. The portion of the civil penalty distributed to the  
281 State Fire Marshal must be used exclusively to fund programs  
282 created within the State Fire Marshal's office that provide  
283 need-based financial assistance to help fire departments,  
284 including volunteer fire departments, procure equipment,  
285 supplies, and educational training designed to mitigate  
286 firefighter exposure to hazardous, cancer-causing chemicals A  
287 ~~fine against an excavator or a member operator imposed under~~  
288 ~~this subsection shall be paid to the system, which shall use the~~  
289 ~~collected fines to satisfy the costs incurred by the system for~~  
290 ~~any proceedings under this section. To the extent there are any~~  
291 ~~funds remaining, the system may use the funds exclusively for~~  
292 ~~damage-prevention education.~~

293           (f) Any excavator or member operator who commits a  
294 noncriminal infraction under s. 556.116(2)(c) must be provided a  
295 written warning at the time a citation is issued stating that  
296 any person who willfully fails to properly respond to a citation  
297 will be charged, in addition to the citation, with the offense  
298 of failing to respond to the citation and, if convicted, commits  
299 a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s.  
300 775.082 or s. 775.083.

301           (g) This section does not change the basis for civil



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302 liability. The findings and results of an investigation a  
303 ~~hearing~~ under this section may not be used as evidence of  
304 liability in any civil action.

305 ~~(4)(a) The division shall issue and serve on all original~~  
306 ~~parties an initial order that assigns the case to a specific~~  
307 ~~administrative law judge and requests information regarding~~  
308 ~~scheduling the final hearing within 5 business days after the~~  
309 ~~division receives a petition or request for hearing. The~~  
310 ~~original parties in the proceeding include all excavators and~~  
311 ~~member operators identified by the system as being involved in~~  
312 ~~the alleged incident. The final hearing must be conducted within~~  
313 ~~60 days after the date the petition or the request for a hearing~~  
314 ~~is filed with the division.~~

315 ~~(b) Unless the parties otherwise agree, venue for the~~  
316 ~~hearing shall be in the county in which the underground facility~~  
317 ~~is located.~~

318 ~~(c) An intervenor in the proceeding must file a petition to~~  
319 ~~intervene no later than 15 days before the final hearing. A~~  
320 ~~person who has a substantial interest in the proceeding may~~  
321 ~~intervene.~~

322 ~~(5) The following procedures apply:~~

323 ~~(a) Motions shall be limited to the following:~~

324 ~~1. A motion in opposition to the petition.~~

325 ~~2. A motion requesting discovery beyond the informal~~  
326 ~~exchange of documents and witness lists described in paragraph~~  
327 ~~(c). Upon a showing of necessity, additional discovery may be~~  
328 ~~permitted in the discretion of the administrative law judge, but~~  
329 ~~only if the discovery can be completed no later than 5 days~~  
330 ~~before the final hearing.~~



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331           ~~3. A motion for continuance of the final hearing date.~~  
332           ~~(b) All parties shall attend a prehearing conference for~~  
333 ~~the purpose of identifying the legal and factual issues to be~~  
334 ~~considered at the final hearing, the names and addresses of~~  
335 ~~witnesses who may be called to testify at the final hearing,~~  
336 ~~documentary evidence that will be offered at the final hearing,~~  
337 ~~the range of penalties that may be imposed, and any other matter~~  
338 ~~that would expedite resolution of the proceeding. The prehearing~~  
339 ~~conference may be held by telephone conference call.~~  
340           ~~(c) Not later than 5 days before the final hearing, the~~  
341 ~~parties shall furnish to each other copies of documentary~~  
342 ~~evidence and lists of witnesses who may testify at the final~~  
343 ~~hearing.~~  
344           ~~(d) All parties shall have an opportunity to respond, to~~  
345 ~~present evidence and argument on all issues involved, to conduct~~  
346 ~~cross-examination and submit rebuttal evidence, and to be~~  
347 ~~represented by counsel or other qualified representative.~~  
348           ~~(e) The record shall consist only of:~~  
349           ~~1. All notices, pleadings, motions, and intermediate~~  
350 ~~rulings.~~  
351           ~~2. Evidence received during the final hearing.~~  
352           ~~3. A statement of matters officially recognized.~~  
353           ~~4. Proffers of proof and objections and rulings thereon.~~  
354           ~~5. Matters placed on the record after an ex parte~~  
355 ~~communication.~~  
356           ~~6. The written final order of the administrative law judge~~  
357 ~~presiding at the final hearing.~~  
358           ~~7. The official transcript of the final hearing.~~  
359           ~~(f) The division shall accurately and completely preserve~~



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360 ~~all testimony in the proceeding and, upon request by any party,~~  
361 ~~shall make a full or partial transcript available at no more~~  
362 ~~than actual cost.~~

363 ~~(g) The administrative law judge shall issue a final order~~  
364 ~~within 30 days after the final hearing or the filing of the~~  
365 ~~transcript thereof, whichever is later. The final order of the~~  
366 ~~administrative law judge must include:~~

367 ~~1. Findings of fact based exclusively on the evidence of~~  
368 ~~record and matters officially recognized.~~

369 ~~2. Conclusions of law. In determining whether a party has~~  
370 ~~committed an infraction of s. 556.107(1) (a), and whether the~~  
371 ~~infraction was a proximate cause of an incident, the commission~~  
372 ~~of an infraction must be proven by a preponderance of the~~  
373 ~~evidence.~~

374 ~~3. Imposition of a fine, if applicable.~~

375 ~~4. Any other information required by law or rule to be~~  
376 ~~contained in a final order.~~

377  
378 ~~The final order of the administrative law judge constitutes~~  
379 ~~final agency action subject to judicial review pursuant to s.~~  
380 ~~120.68.~~

381 ~~Section 4. Section 556.117, Florida Statutes, is created to~~  
382 ~~read:~~

383 ~~556.117 Underground facility damage prevention review.—~~  
384 ~~Sunshine State One-Call of Florida, Inc., shall review the~~  
385 ~~reports submitted by the clerks of court to the State Fire~~  
386 ~~Marshal and any complaints of an alleged violation under this~~  
387 ~~chapter to identify issues or potential issues with damage~~  
388 ~~prevention and enforcement. The corporation shall identify areas~~



389 in the state where additional education related to damage  
390 prevention and enforcement is needed and shall recommend  
391 solutions to remedy issues related to damage prevention and  
392 enforcement. The corporation shall, by October 1 of each year,  
393 submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
394 Speaker of the House of Representatives an analysis of its  
395 reviews and any recommendations for improving underground  
396 facility damage prevention and enforcement.

397 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.  
398

399 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

400 And the title is amended as follows:

401 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
402 and insert:

403 A bill to be entitled  
404 An act relating to underground facility damage  
405 prevention and safety; amending s. 556.102, F.S.;  
406 providing definitions; amending s. 556.107, F.S.;  
407 revising and providing noncriminal violations relating  
408 to the transportation of certain hazardous materials;  
409 authorizing the State Fire Marshal or his or her  
410 agents or the fire chief of the special district,  
411 municipality, or county to issue certain citations;  
412 providing enhanced civil penalties; providing  
413 disposition of the civil penalties; requiring a report  
414 to be submitted to an additional entity; providing  
415 requirements for the report; providing civil and  
416 criminal penalties; amending s. 556.116, F.S.;  
417 deleting definitions; requiring certain persons to



418 transmit an incident report to the State Fire Marshal;  
419 providing that certain incident reports must be  
420 investigated by the State Fire Marshal or his or her  
421 agents; authorizing the State Fire Marshal or his or  
422 her agents to issue citations and impose civil  
423 penalties; providing for disposition of the civil  
424 penalty; requiring written warnings for certain  
425 noncriminal infractions; providing for an enhanced  
426 penalty upon conviction for a failure to respond;  
427 deleting provisions relating to hearings by the  
428 Division of Administrative Hearings of certain  
429 incidents; creating s. 556.117, F.S.; requiring  
430 Sunshine State One-Call of Florida, Inc., to review  
431 certain reports and complaints; requiring the  
432 corporation to identify areas in the state in need of  
433 additional education and to recommend solutions;  
434 requiring the corporation to submit an annual report  
435 to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified  
436 date; providing an effective date.