



BILL & AMENDMENT SUMMARY

Iowa's One Call System HF 2408

Status of Bill: House Floor
Committee: Commerce Committee (23-0)
Lead Democrats: Rep. Riding
Floor Manager: Rep. Watts
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Summary

This bill makes minor but important changes regarding communication between the excavators, facility operators, and the One Call notification center. Under current law, excavators are required to report to the notification center at least 48 hours before a planned excavation, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

Section 1 of the bill adds language to state that excavators cannot report to the notification center more than ten calendar days prior to the commencement of the excavation. Specifies that notices received after 5pm at the notification center are to be processed as if they were received at 8am the next business day and that notices are to be valid for 20 calendar days from the date the notice was received at the notification center. Allows for an excavation to proceed prior to the expiration of the 48 hours if the excavator has been informed by the notification center that the locating and marking of underground facilities is complete.

Section 2 of the bill requires the excavator to use one of the following, or a combination of the following to mark the area to be excavated: white paint, white flags, or white stakes. Exceptions to this requirement are as follows:

- The precise location, direction, size and length of the proposed excavation area can be clearly and adequately defined and described during the call to the notification center or during an onsite preconstruction meeting.
- Electronic means of white-lining is supported by the notification center and used by the excavator.
- Physical premarking can be shown to be impractical.

Section 3 of the bill requires the operator of an underground facility to report to the notification center that the marking is complete. New language requires the notification center to report to the excavator as to whether all operators reported to the notification center as to whether markings were completed or not. This must take place not later than the expiration of the 48 hour period.

Section 4 of the bill states that there cannot be any excavation performed within 25 feet of an underground natural gas transmission line unless a representative of the line is present at the excavation area. However, the excavation can continue if the representative fails to show up as long as the excavator reports this to the notification center and the excavator takes reasonable precautions are used to protect the underground facilities.

Section 5 makes a change so that if an operator determines that they do not have any facilities in the proposed excavation area, the operator is required to report to the notification center of this finding/determination. This notification must occur by the operator within 48 hours of receiving the proposed excavation notice.

Section 6 requires the board to establish, by rule, a consistent manner of notifications provided to the excavator.

Section 7 says that there is nothing precluding an excavator, and operator, or the notification center from having or engaging in additional communications other than what is required in under current law.

Amendment Summary

H-8041 by Watts (R) – Strikes the language which limited the excavator to reporting to the notification center a maximum of ten calendar days prior to the commencement of the excavation.