
HOUSE BILL 2223

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Takko, Morris, Armstrong, and Angel; by request of Utilities & Transportation Commission

Prefiled 01/03/12. Read first time 01/09/12. Referred to Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the effective date of RCW 19.122.130
2 from 2011's underground utility damage prevention act; amending RCW
3 19.122.130; and amending 2011 c 263 s 27 (uncodified).

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.122.130 and 2011 c 263 s 18 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) By January 1, 2013, the commission must contract with a
8 statewide, nonprofit entity whose purpose is to reduce damages to
9 underground and above ground facilities, promote safe excavation
10 practices, and review complaints of alleged violations of this chapter.
11 The contract must not obligate funding by the commission for activities
12 performed by the nonprofit entity or the safety committee under this
13 section, and is therefore exempt under RCW 39.29.040(1) from the
14 requirements of chapter 39.29 RCW.

15 (2) By January 1, 2013, the contracting entity must create a safety
16 committee to:

17 (a) Advise the commission and other state agencies, the
18 legislature, and local governments on best practices and training to

1 prevent damage to underground utilities, and policies to enhance worker
2 and public safety; and

3 (b) Review complaints alleging violations of this chapter involving
4 practices related to underground facilities.

5 (3)(a) The safety committee will consist of thirteen members, who
6 must be nominated by represented groups and appointed by the
7 contracting entity to staggered three-year terms. By January 1, 2013,
8 the safety committee must include representatives of:

9 ((+a)) (i) Local governments;

10 ((+b)) (ii) A natural gas utility subject to regulation under
11 Titles 80 and 81 RCW;

12 ((+c)) (iii) Contractors;

13 ((+d)) (iv) Excavators;

14 ((+e)) (v) An electric utility subject to regulation under Title
15 80 RCW;

16 ((+f)) (vi) A consumer-owned utility, as defined in RCW
17 19.27A.140;

18 ((+g)) (vii) A pipeline company;

19 ((+h)) (viii) The insurance industry;

20 ((+i)) (ix) The commission; and

21 ((+j)) (x) A telecommunications company.

22 (b) By January 1, 2013, the safety committee may pass bylaws and
23 provide for those organizational processes that are necessary to
24 complete the safety committee's tasks.

25 (4) The safety committee must meet at least once every three
26 months.

27 (5) After January 1, 2013, the safety committee may review
28 complaints of alleged violations of this chapter involving practices
29 related to underground facilities. Any person may bring a complaint to
30 the safety committee regarding an alleged violation occurring on or
31 after January 1, 2013.

32 (6) To review complaints of alleged violations, the safety
33 committee must appoint at least three and not more than five members as
34 a review committee. The review committee must include the same number
35 of members representing excavators and facility operators. One member
36 representing facility operators must also be a representative of a
37 pipeline company or a natural gas utility subject to regulation under

1 Titles 80 and 81 RCW. The review committee must also include a member
2 representing the insurance industry.

3 (7) Before reviewing a complaint alleging a violation of this
4 chapter, the review committee must notify the person making the
5 complaint and the alleged violator of its review and of the opportunity
6 to participate.

7 (8) After January 1, 2013, the safety committee may provide written
8 notification to the commission, with supporting documentation, that a
9 person has likely committed a violation of this chapter, and recommend
10 remedial action that may include a penalty amount, training, or
11 education to improve public safety, or some combination thereof.

12 (9) This section expires December 31, 2020.

13 **Sec. 2.** 2011 c 263 s 27 (uncodified) is amended to read as
14 follows:

15 Except for section 1 of this act, which takes effect on the
16 effective date of this section, this act takes effect January 1, 2013.

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