

April 14, 1999

**S 906. UNDERGROUND UTILITY DAMAGE AMEND. TO AMEND THE UNDERGROUND DAMAGE PREVENTION ACT.** Amends GS Ch. 87 to delete provisions regarding an association of utility owners and replaces them with the establishment of a notification center, to which every utility, including local governments, that has underground lines must belong. The notification center is to provide for the receipt of notification of excavation operations throughout the state and can transmit notices of these operations. The center shall be operated by a nonprofit corporation to which the utility members shall elect directors. To fund the center, the board shall assess each member an amount reflecting the cost of that member's participation in the system. A notice of intent to excavate sent to the center shall be valid for 10 working days. Upon receiving a notice, the center shall notify all members whose underground lines are located in the area of the proposed excavation. Any person excavating is required to take reasonable steps to protect any underground utility lines. The notification center, rather than the association, is required to file with the register of deeds in each county a notice giving the telephone number and address of the center. A utility receiving a request for survey locate or design locate work shall respond to the request in 10 working days. If utilities in conflict with a proposed excavation have been located and a change in plans is necessitated by unforeseen conditions, a request for a high-speed locate to be made within 4 hours can be made for the alternate contiguous location. The high-speed locate shall be paid for by the person making the request at a price established by the notification center. Persons desiring to obtain high-spel locates shall register with the notification shall register with the notification center in Jan. each year. Effective July 1, 2000.

**Intro. by Lee.**

Ref. to Judiciary II

GS 87