

State Corporation Commission 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1230

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☒ Engrossed
Second House ☒ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Ware, R.L.

3. Committee: Commerce and Labor

4. Title: **Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act; sewer laterals.**

5. Summary: Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act; sewer laterals. Establishes a set of requirements for the protection of sewer system laterals and private sewer laterals that are unique from the general requirements of the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act. The measure also establishes procedures to address recurring noncompliance with the provisions of the Act by localities and other political subdivisions of the Commonwealth.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Not available. See Item 8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

8. Fiscal Implications: At this time, it is difficult to project any fiscal implications. The impact would depend on the number of “probable violations” that the SCC’s Division of Utility and Railroad Safety may receive for investigation. The Division will be able to handle a certain number of these reports with current staff before needing additional resources.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Corporation Commission

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None

11. Other Comments: The Division of Utility and Railroad Safety facilitated meetings of a working group made up of representatives of various stakeholder groups (local governments, utilities, excavators) for over a year to address the marking of sewer laterals. Construction of utilities such as gas lines, by trenchless excavation causes what’s known as “cross bores” through unmarked sewer laterals resulting in blockage of these pipelines. In the process of clearing the blockage, the utility line that has gone through the sewer lateral gets damaged creating safety issues. This bill was drafted by the working group to allow marking of the sewer laterals before excavation is performed.

The amended bill added an enactment clause which provides a January 1, 2011, effective date.

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House Bill 1203 has passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Date: 1/29/2010 JH/MT

Cc: Secretary of Public Safety