

House Bill 1059

Presented by: Patrick Fahn, Director of Public Utilities
Public Service Commission

Before: House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Todd Porter, Chairman

Date: January 14, 2021

TESTIMONY

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Patrick Fahn, Director of Public Utilities.

As directed by the Legislature, the Commission has participated in the United States Department of Transportation's One-Call Grant program since 2015. This includes education of the public to reduce third-party damage to underground facilities and enforcement of the One-Call law. Continued state oversight of the One-Call program requires an annual audit and scoring by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

One item of concern noted by PHMSA during our past few audits was the absence of a requirement in North Dakota Century Code 49-23 requiring an excavator to call 911 emergency services to report damage and escape of flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid resulting from a strike. This agency bill is presented to ensure we continue to meet PHMSA requirements and to support a continued satisfactory determination of our One-Call program by PHMSA.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. Thank you for the opportunity to present this information. I will be happy to answer any questions.