

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 259** HLS 26RS 537

Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 1, 2026	4:53 PM	Author: DEWITT
Dept./Agy.: Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity		Analyst: Kimberly Fruge
Subject: Damaged Infrastructure		

UTILITIES

EG NO IMPACT See Note

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Provides relative to the repair of damaged infrastructure from certain excavators or demolishers

Proposed law provides that pre-construction coordination and communication requirements prior to the commencement of any excavation or demolition activity utilizing funding provided by the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

Proposed law provides that any excavator or demolisher who is excavating or demolishing utilizing funds provided by the BEAD Program that damages an underground utility or facility, and is determined to be at fault for the damage, shall be responsible for providing immediate measures to prevent further damage, notify relevant parties, and repair the damage or pay the cost to repair the damage; provides that they shall not receive the final reimbursement from the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity until in compliance with proposed law.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental expenditures as a result of this measure. Proposed law provides that if an excavator or demolisher receives funding from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and damages an underground utility, they shall be responsible for the repair or the cost of the repair before final reimbursement from the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity. Under current law, excavators and demolishers are generally held liable for any damage if they fail to follow the proper safety procedures and damage is not a result of improper maintenance by the utility company. Proposed law restricts the distribution of BEAD funding from the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity until the excavator or demolisher repairs the damage or pays for the cost of the repairs.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}

6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer