

SB 107 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Exempts vehicles owned or operated by utility from offense of illegal stopping, standing, or parking to install, repair, maintain, operate, or upgrade natural gas service.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Narrows exemption to natural gas utility vehicle used in investigation or repair of natural gas leak if immediate investigation is necessary and natural gas utility vehicle displays sign denoting emergency responder status.

BACKGROUND:

Natural gas is combustible, and natural gas leaks must be addressed quickly to ensure public safety. When natural gas leaks are reported to the utility, technicians are dispatched to investigate and repair. If a parking space is not readily available, responding technicians may be forced to park utility vehicles in a roadway or other location while seeking to address a potential natural gas leak.

Parking, stopping, or leaving a vehicle in roadways and other specified locations is a Class D traffic violation. Senate Bill 107 creates an exemption for vehicles owned or operated by a utility when stopping, standing, or parking to repair, maintain, operate, or upgrade natural gas service.