

SB 107 A -A3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Exempts natural gas utility vehicles from prohibitions on stopping, standing, or parking when investigating or repairing a natural gas leak if immediate investigation is necessary and the natural gas utility vehicle displays a sign denoting emergency responder status. Applies to conduct occurring on or after the effective date of this Act.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Senate vote (2/28/19): Carried by Olsen. Passed. Ayes, 30.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A3 Adds exemption for electric utility vehicle from prohibitions on stopping, standing, or parking when responding to an emergency if the vehicle is identified as an electric vehicle and there is also an emergency vehicle at the location or the electric utility is investigating a downed or arcing utility line. Defines "electric utility" for the purposes of this Act as an electric company or consumer-owned utility engaged in the business of distributing electricity to retail customers in the state.

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 when investigating and repairing a natural gas leak.

Parking, stopping, or leaving a vehicle in roadways and other specified locations is a Class D traffic violation. Senate Bill 107 A creates an exemption for vehicles owned or operated by a natural gas utility when immediate investigation is necessary and the vehicle displays a sign denoting emergency responder status.