

**SB 107 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On Energy and Environment**

**Carrier:** Rep. Zika

**Action Date:** 05/02/19

**Action:** Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Findley, Helm, Reschke, Salinas, Schouten, Sollman, Wilde, Williams, Zika

**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 4/18, 5/2

**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. Exempts electric utility vehicles from prohibitions on stopping, standing, or parking when responding to an emergency if the vehicle is identified as an electric utility 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" as an electric company or consumer-owned utility engaged in the business of distributing electricity to retail customers in the state. Applies to conduct occurring on or after the effective date of this Act.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Parking as a challenge to natural gas utilities responding to reports of odor and leaks
- Amendment to address electric utilities responding to downed or arcing lines or assisting emergency responders like firefighters
- Senate Bill 107 B is similar to City of Portland ordinance

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

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 utility 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" 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. Similarly, electric utilities respond immediately when a fallen power line is reported. Electric utilities may also be called upon to turn off power in the case of a fire or to assist an emergency responder. 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, a fallen power line, or when assisting in the case of fire or other emergency. However, parking, stopping, or leaving a vehicle in roadways and other specified locations is a Class D traffic violation.

Senate Bill 107 B creates an exemption to violations of parking, stopping, or leaving a vehicle in a roadway 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. The Act would also exempt electric utility vehicles when assisting emergency responders or when investigating a downed or arcing utility line.