



SENATE BILL 1570

ILLINOIS UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITIES DAMAGE PREVENTION ACT

Across the country, every few minutes an underground utility line is hit because someone chose not to call a state one-call center, such as JULIE, Inc. (JULIE), before digging. Striking a single buried utility line can result in repair costs and cause tremendous property and environmental damage, injury and loss of lives.

As a not-for-profit organization representing more than 1,940 members, JULIE leads efforts to amend the Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act. Consequently, JULIE has proactively worked with representatives from statewide groups and associations impacted by this Act to find consensus language on current issues facing the industry.

While most of the proposed language simply defines terms and clarifies definitions, **SB1570** will promote an easier, safer digging environment and raises the damage prevention “bar of responsibility” for both the excavator and owners and operators of underground facilities. It is important to note that the city of Chicago has its own one-call center and enforcement program. As a result, this Act impacts suburban Cook County and the rest of the state only (not the city of Chicago). State Senator Rezin is the sponsor of this bill.

ABOUT JULIE, INC. (JULIE)

JULIE, Inc. (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) provides professional and non-professional (i.e. homeowners) excavators with a free service to contact for the locating and marking of underground utility facilities. Excavators can reach JULIE by calling 8-1-1 or by going online at www.illinois1call.com.

JULIE is not a utility and neither owns nor marks any underground facilities. JULIE serves as a message handling service for its underground utility facility members, taking information about planned excavations and distributing this information to its membership. It is then the responsibility of each member utility to mark the location of their underground facilities at the excavation site. Members fully support JULIE based upon their message volume.

Since its inception in 1974, JULIE has logged more than 30 million calls and its annual call volume makes it one of the largest industry one-call systems in the United States. JULIE began operations in 1974 in Will County and expanded its coverage to include all of Illinois as of Dec. 1, 1980, except for the city of Chicago, which is served by 811 Chicago.

In 1976, the JULIE System was accepted by the Illinois Commerce Commission as compliance with the one-call notification section of General Order 185. The Illinois General Assembly enacted the Illinois Underground Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act on January 1, 1991. Changes to the Act became effective in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2009. The law requires anyone excavating to contact the Illinois One-Call System before digging and requires owners and operators of underground facilities to be members of the one-call system. For more information about JULIE, visit www.illinois1call.com.