

SF908 - 1E - Telecom. Installer Certification Reqmts. Modified

Chief Author: **Rob Kupec**
 Committee: **Labor**
 Date Completed: **4/20/2025 8:40:56 PM**
 Lead Agency: **Labor and Industry Dept**
 Other Agencies:
 Employment and Economic
 Dvlpmnt

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.
 Reductions shown in the parentheses.

Dollars in Thousands	Biennium		Biennium		
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
State Total					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total					

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium		Biennium		
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-

Lead LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Karl Palm **Date:** 4/20/2025 8:40:56 PM
Phone: 651-296-6055 **Email:** karl.palm@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2 Dollars in Thousands	Biennium		Biennium		
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total	-	-	-	-	-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total	-	-	-	-	-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total	-	-	-	-	-

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Biennial Total					
Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)					
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Karl Palm **Date:** 4/16/2025 1:23:16 PM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

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	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total					
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total					
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total					

Bill Description

This bill modifies provisions governing the certification of underground telecommunications installers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 326B.198, subdivisions 2, 3.

MS 326B.198 Subd. 2 requires that the installation of underground telecommunications infrastructure that is located within 10 feet of existing underground utilities or that crosses the existing underground utilities be performed by a certified safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer (Installer). Notably, this bill:

- Changes the effective date to January 1, 2026, statewide, which eliminates the current staggered effective date for the seven-county metropolitan area (July 1, 2025).
- Eliminates the requirement that no fewer than two Installers always be present at any location where telecommunications infrastructure is being installed by means of directional drilling.

The bill further amends MS 326B.198 Subd. 3 to allow Department approved training providers to apply for and potentially receive approval of classroom instruction course material delivered up to two years prior to becoming an approved training provider. Once approved, a training provider may grant retroactive credit for individuals who completed this similar/same training experience, through that same training provider. The individual granted retroactive credit must successfully complete the approved exam in order to be certified as a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer.

Assumptions

The Commissioner of Labor and Industry (DLI) is responsible for overseeing standards for the safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer certification program. This authority includes approving training programs, and an accompanying exam, submitted by external providers for trainees to demonstrate knowledge of the course materials. Certification requires applicants to complete a 40-hour initial course and pass an exam administered through a department-approved training provider. The certification is valid for three years, and a four-hour refresher course is required every three years thereafter to maintain certification.

The certification requirement is like that of individual pipelayers who are required to complete pipe laying training as prescribed by the commissioner (Minn. Stat. 326B.46, subd. 1); however, department-approved training providers manage the logistics of the certification program. DLI approved training providers administer the initial course and prescribed exam and issue corresponding certifications. With this individual certificate requirement, there is no requirement that the Installer's employer hold any type of business license or file a bond with the Department.

The changes outlined in this bill would minimally impact the current staff time dedicated to this certification program. Despite the later effective date proposed in the bill, DLI still anticipates receiving requests to review and approve training programs, exams, and refresher courses, and would continue to monitor & update relevant resources, and provide guidance and direction to stakeholders. DLI anticipates it would receive some applications for approval of prior classroom

instruction course material from approved training providers but considers this minimal additional workload that could be undertaken by current staff.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

Agency Contact: Sean O'Neil (651-284-5854)

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Jacob Gaub

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 Agency: Employment and Economic Dvlpmnt

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Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Karl Palm **Date:** 4/20/2025 8:40:42 PM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

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Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-	-	-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-	-	-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*					
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-	-	-

Bill Description

SF-908 would revise installation requirements for underground telecommunications.

Assumptions

The Office of Broadband Development (OBD) within the Department of Employment and Economic Development already consults on these standards with other agencies as part of Minnesota Statute 326B.198. As this bill would only revise the standards' requirements, there is no additional cost to the agency.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**Long-Term Fiscal Considerations****Local Fiscal Impact****References/Sources****Agency Contact:**

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Matthew Dobratz

Date: 4/17/2025 7:43:00 PM

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