

1.1 **Senator McEwen from the Committee on Labor, to which was referred**

1.2 **S.F. No. 908:** A bill for an act relating to construction codes; modifying provisions
1.3 governing the certification of underground telecommunications installers; amending
1.4 Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 326B.198, subdivisions 2, 3.

1.5 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill be amended as follows:

1.6 Page 1, line 20, strike "(b)"

1.7 Page 2, line 1, delete the new language

1.8 Page 2, line 2, delete the new language and strike the period

1.9 Page 2, line 3, strike "(c)" and insert "(b)"

1.10 Page 2, delete section 2 and insert:

1.11 "Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 326B.198, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.12 Subd. 3. **Certification Standards.** (a) The commissioner of labor and industry, in
1.13 consultation with the Office of Broadband, shall approve standards for a safety-qualified
1.14 underground telecommunications installer certification program that requires a person to:

1.15 (1) complete a 40-hour initial course that includes classroom and hands-on instruction
1.16 covering proper work procedures for safe installation of underground utilities, including:

1.17 (i) regulations applicable to excavation near existing utilities;

1.18 (ii) identification, location, and verification of utility lines using hand- or
1.19 hydro-excavation or other accepted methods;

1.20 (iii) response to line strike incidents;

1.21 (iv) traffic control procedures;

1.22 (v) use of a tracking device to safely guide directional drill equipment along a drill path;
1.23 and

1.24 (vi) avoidance and mitigation of safety hazards posed by underground utility installation
1.25 projects;

1.26 (2) demonstrate knowledge of the course material by successfully completing an
1.27 examination approved by the commissioner; and


1.28 (3) complete a four-hour refresher course within three years of completing the original
1.29 course and every three years thereafter in order to maintain certification.

(b) The commissioner must develop an approval process for training providers under this subdivision and may suspend or revoke the approval of any training provider that fails to demonstrate consistent delivery of approved curriculum or success in preparing participants to complete the examination.

(c) An approved training provider may apply for approval of classroom instruction course material delivered up to two years prior to becoming an approved training provider and before January 1, 2026, as being equivalent or substantially equivalent to classroom instruction course material that is contained in the approved program. An application must provide a copy of all written materials used for the training for which equivalent credit is sought, the specific subjects covered in the training, the name and qualifications of the training provider, a description of the delivery method for the training, and the date of the training. Once approved, a training provider may grant full or partial retroactive credit for completion of classroom instruction training delivered prior to the commissioner's decision to approve a program. A person granted retroactive credit must successfully complete the examination that the training provider is approved to administer in order to be certified as a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment."

And when so amended the bill do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development. Amendments adopted. Report adopted.


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(Committee Chair)

March 28, 2025.....
(Date of Committee recommendation)