

AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-183, §2(c)(2), June 22, 2016, 130 Stat. 516, substituted “Funding” for “Authorization of appropriations” in item 6107.

2006—Pub. L. 109-468, §3(b), Dec. 29, 2006, 120 Stat. 3490, added item 6109.

2002—Pub. L. 107-355, §2(c)(2), Dec. 17, 2002, 116 Stat. 2986, substituted “Implementation of best practices guidelines” for “Review of one-call system best practices” in item 6105.

§ 6101. Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

- (1) to enhance public safety;
- (2) to protect the environment;
- (3) to minimize risks to excavators; and
- (4) to prevent disruption of vital public services,

by reducing the incidence of damage to underground facilities during excavation through the voluntary adoption and efficient implementation by all States of State one-call notification programs that meet the minimum standards set forth under section 6103.

(Added Pub. L. 105-178, title VII, §7302(a), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 478.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of duties, powers, and authority of Research and Special Programs Administration under this chapter to the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, see section 2(b) of Pub. L. 108-426, set out as a note under section 108 of this title.

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS

Pub. L. 105-178, title VII, §7301, June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 477, provided that: “Congress finds that—

“(1) unintentional damage to underground facilities during excavation is a significant cause of disruptions in telecommunications, water supply, electric power, and other vital public services, such as hospital and air traffic control operations, and is a leading cause of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline accidents;

“(2) excavation that is performed without prior notification to an underground facility operator or with inaccurate or untimely marking of such a facility prior to excavation can cause damage that results in fatalities, serious injuries, harm to the environment and disruption of vital services to the public; and

“(3) protection of the public and the environment from the consequences of underground facility damage caused by excavations will be enhanced by a coordinated national effort to improve one-call notification programs in each State and the effectiveness and efficiency of one-call notification systems that operate under such programs.”

§ 6102. Definitions

In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) **ONE-CALL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.**—The term “one-call notification system” means a system operated by an organization that has as 1 of its purposes to receive notification from excavators of intended excavation in a specified area in order to disseminate such notification to underground facility operators that are members of the system so that such operators can locate and mark their facilities in order to prevent damage to underground facilities in the course of such excavation.

(2) **STATE ONE-CALL NOTIFICATION PROGRAM.**—The term “State one-call notification program” means the State statutes, regulations, orders, judicial decisions, and other elements of law and policy in effect in a State that establish the requirements for the operation of one-call notification systems in such State.

(3) **STATE.**—The term “State” means a State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

(Added Pub. L. 105-178, title VII, §7302(a), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 478.)

§ 6103. Minimum standards for State one-call notification programs

(a) **MINIMUM STANDARDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to qualify for a grant under section 6106, a State one-call notification program, at a minimum, shall provide for—

(A) appropriate participation by all underground facility operators, including all government operators;

(B) appropriate participation by all excavators, including all government and contract excavators; and

(C) flexible and effective enforcement under State law with respect to participation in, and use of, one-call notification systems.

(2) **EXEMPTIONS PROHIBITED.**—In order to qualify for a grant under section 6106, a State one-call notification program may not exempt municipalities, State agencies, or their contractors from the one-call notification system requirements of the program.

(b) **APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION.**—In determining the appropriate extent of participation required for types of underground facilities or excavators under subsection (a), a State shall assess, rank, and take into consideration the risks to the public safety, the environment, excavators, and vital public services associated with—

(1) damage to types of underground facilities; and

(2) activities of types of excavators.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—A State one-call notification program also shall, at a minimum, provide for and document—

(1) consideration of the ranking of risks under subsection (b) in the enforcement of its provisions;

(2) a reasonable relationship between the benefits of one-call notification and the cost of implementing and complying with the requirements of the State one-call notification program; and

(3) voluntary participation where the State determines that a type of underground facility or an activity of a type of excavator poses a de minimis risk to public safety or the environment.

(d) **PENALTIES.**—To the extent the State determines appropriate and necessary to achieve the purposes of this chapter, a State one-call notifi-