

S.F. No. 908 and H.F. No. 47, which had been referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison, were examined and found to be not identical.

The following document shows the differences between S.F. No. 908, the first engrossment, and H.F. No. 47, the first engrossment.

April 30, 2025

Patrick D. Murphy  
Chief Clerk, House of Representatives

### **Explanation of Comparison Reports**

When a Senate File is received from the Senate, it is given its first reading and must be referred to the appropriate standing committee or division under Rule 1.11. But if the House File companion of that Senate File has already been reported out of Committee and given its second reading and is on the General Register, the Senate File must be referred to the Chief Clerk for comparison pursuant to Rule 1.15. The Chief Clerk reports whether the bills were found to be identical or not identical. Once the bills have been compared and the differences have been reported, the Senate File is given its second reading and is substituted for the House File. The House File is then considered withdrawn. Pursuant to rule 3.33, if the bills are not identical and the chief author of the bill wishes to use the House language, the chief author must give notice of their intent to substitute the House language when the bill is placed on the Calendar for the Day or the Fiscal Calendar. If the chief author of the bill wishes to keep the Senate language, no action is required.

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to construction codes; modifying provisions governing the certification

1.3 of underground telecommunications installers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024,

1.4 section 326B.198, subdivisions 2, 3.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 326B.198, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 2. **Installation requirements.** (a) The installation of underground

1.8 telecommunications infrastructure that is located within ten feet of existing underground

1.9 utilities or that crosses the existing underground utilities must be performed by

1.10 safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers as follows:

1.11 (1) the location of existing utilities by hand- or hydro-excavation or other accepted

1.12 methods must be performed by a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer;

1.13 and

1.14 (2) where telecommunications infrastructure is installed by means of directional drilling,

1.15 the monitoring of the location and depth of the drill head must be performed by a

1.16 safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer; ~~and,~~

1.17 ~~(3) no fewer than two safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers must~~

1.18 ~~be present at all times at any location where telecommunications infrastructure is being~~

1.19 ~~installed by means of directional drilling.~~

1.20 ~~(b) Beginning July 1, 2025, all installations of underground telecommunications~~

1.21 ~~infrastructure subject to this subdivision within the seven-county metropolitan area must~~

2.1 ~~be performed by safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers that meet the~~

2.2 ~~requirements of this subdivision.~~

2.3 ~~(c)~~ (b) Beginning January 1, 2026, all installations of underground telecommunications

2.4 infrastructure subject to this subdivision within this state must be performed by

2.5 safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers that meet the requirements of

2.6 this subdivision.

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

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

2.9 Subd. 3. **Certification Standards.** (a) The commissioner of labor and industry, in

2.10 consultation with the Office of Broadband, shall approve standards for a safety-qualified

2.11 underground telecommunications installer certification program that requires a person to:

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2.12 (1) complete a ~~40~~-hour initial course that includes classroom and hands-on instruction

2.13 covering proper work procedures for safe installation of underground utilities, including:

- 2.12

(1) complete a ~~40-hour~~ ten-hour initial course that includes classroom and hands-on
- 2.13

instruction covering proper work procedures for safe installation of underground utilities,
- 2.14

including:
- 2.15

(i) regulations applicable to excavation near existing utilities;
- 2.16

(ii) identification, location, and verification of utility lines using hand- or
- 2.17

hydro-excavation or other accepted methods;
- 2.18

(iii) response to line strike incidents;
- 2.19

(iv) traffic control procedures;
- 2.20

(v) use of a tracking device to safely guide directional drill equipment along a drill path;
- 2.21

and
- 2.22

(vi) avoidance and mitigation of safety hazards posed by underground utility installation
- 2.23

projects;
- 2.24

(2) demonstrate knowledge of the course material by successfully completing an
- 2.25

examination approved by the commissioner; and
- 2.26

(3) complete a four-hour refresher course within three years of completing the original
- 2.27

course and every three years thereafter in order to maintain certification.
- 2.28

(b) The commissioner must develop an approval process for training providers under
- 2.29

this subdivision and may suspend or revoke the approval of any training provider that fails
- 2.30

to demonstrate consistent delivery of approved curriculum or success in preparing participants
- 2.31

to complete the examination.
- 3.1

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(c) An approved training provider may apply for approval of classroom instruction course
- 3.2

material delivered up to two years prior to becoming an approved training provider and
- 3.3

before January 1, 2026, as being equivalent or substantially equivalent to classroom
- 3.4

instruction course material that is contained in the approved program. An application must
- 3.5

provide a copy of all written materials used for the training for which equivalent credit is
- 3.6

sought, the specific subjects covered in the training, the name and qualifications of the
- 3.7

training provider, a description of the delivery method for the training, and the date of the
- 3.8

training. Once approved, a training provider may grant full or partial retroactive credit for
- 3.9

completion of classroom instruction training delivered prior to the commissioner's decision
- 3.10

to approve a program. A person granted retroactive credit must successfully complete the
- 3.11

examination that the training provider is approved to administer in order to be certified as
- 3.12

a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer.
- 3.13

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