

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 1344 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

As Engrossed: H3/12/13 S4/2/13
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1583

By: Representative Barnett

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS UNDERGROUND FACILITIES
DAMAGE PREVENTION ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS UNDERGROUND
FACILITIES DAMAGE PREVENTION ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-271-102(4), concerning the definition of "excavate" or "excavation" under the Arkansas Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act, is amended to read as follows:

(4) "Excavate" or "excavation" means to dig, compress, or remove earth, rock, or other materials in or on the ground by use of mechanized equipment, tools manipulated only by human or animal power, or blasting, including, ~~but not necessarily limited to,~~ without limitation augering, boring, backfilling, drilling, grading, pile-driving, plowing in, pulling in, trenching, tunneling, and plowing;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-271-104(a)(2), concerning penalties and civil remedies under the Arkansas Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Operators of underground pipeline facilities and excavators shall, upon violation of any applicable requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 198, Subpart C, or 49 U.S.C. § 60114(b) concerning marking facilities, § 60114(d) concerning applicability to excavators, or § 60118(a) concerning general waivers, as in effect on February 2013, unless excepted under § 14-271-109,



and damage of an interstate or intrastate natural gas pipeline facility or an interstate or intrastate hazardous liquid pipeline facility, be subject to civil penalties in an amount not to exceed two (2) times the amount of property damage to the interstate or intrastate natural gas pipeline facility or an interstate or intrastate hazardous liquid pipeline facility up to a maximum of ~~twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)~~ two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for each violation for each day that the violation persists, except that the maximum civil penalty shall not exceed ~~five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000)~~ two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for any related series of violations.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code 14-271-104(f), concerning penalties and civil remedies under the Arkansas Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act, is amended to read as follows:

(f) Neither the State Highway Commission, nor the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, nor their officers, ~~agents, or~~ employees, ~~or contractors,~~ nor the county judges or their road departments ~~shall be~~ are subject to the provisions of this section.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 14-271-109(a), concerning notice to One Call Center and exceptions under the Arkansas Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Compliance with notice requirements of § 14-271-112 is not required for:

(1) The moving of earth that is not on a right-of-way or within an easement of an operator by tools manipulated only by human or animal power;

(2) The moving of earth by an operator that is on a right-of-way or within an easement of the operator by tools only manipulated by human power and exclusively for the purposes of system maintenance and leak detection;

~~(2)(3)~~ (3) Any agricultural purposes, including any form of cultivation for agricultural purposes, digging for postholes on private property, construction and maintenance of farm ponds, land clearing, or other normal agricultural purposes ~~which, that~~ are not on a right-of-way of an operator;

~~(3) Work by a public agency or its contractors on a preengineered project;~~

(4) The opening of a grave in a cemetery that is not on a right-of-way of an operator; or

(5) Routine road work and general maintenance as performed in the right-of-way by state or county maintenance departments, but excluding any work or maintenance involving ~~change of grade or clearing or widening drainage ditches~~ any demolition or excavation.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 69, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

5-69-103. Pipelines and pipeline facilities.

(a) A person upon conviction is guilty of a Class D felony if the person knowingly violates:

(1) § 14-271-110(a);

(2) An order, safety standard, rule, or regulation of the Arkansas Public Service Commission pursuant to § 23-15-205;

(3) § 23-15-206(b);

(4) § 23-15-206(c);

(5) § 23-15-208(a); or

(6) § 23-15-209(a).

(b) A person upon conviction is guilty of a Class D felony if the person knowingly violates §14-271-112(a) and:

(1) With respect to the violation, damages or destroys an interstate or intrastate natural gas pipeline facility that results in serious physical injury or actual damage to property of more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000);

(2) With respect to the violation, damages or destroys an interstate or intrastate natural gas pipeline facility, knows or has reason to know of the damage or destruction, and does not report the damage or destruction promptly to the operator of the interstate or intrastate natural gas pipeline facility or to local law enforcement authorities; or

(3) With respect to the violation, damages an intrastate hazardous liquid pipeline facility that results in the release of more than fifty (50) barrels of hazardous liquid.

(c)(1) A person who knowingly engages in the unauthorized disposal of

solid waste within the right-of-way of an interstate or intrastate pipeline facility or an interstate or intrastate hazardous liquid pipeline facility upon conviction is guilty of a Class D felony.

(2)(A) As used in this subsection, "solid waste" means garbage, refuse, or sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility or other discarded material, including without limitation solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial operations, commercial operations, mining operations, agricultural operations, or other community activities.

(B) "Solid waste" does not include solid or dissolved material in domestic sewage or solids discovered in materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges that are point sources subject to permits under 33 U.S.C. § 1342, as it existed on January 1, 2013, or source, special nuclear, or byproduct material as defined by 42 U.S.C. § 2011 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2013.

(d) A person who knowingly damages or destroys an interstate or intrastate pipeline facility or an interstate or intrastate hazardous liquid pipeline facility upon conviction is guilty of a:

(1) Class A misdemeanor if the amount of actual damage is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or less;

(2) Class D felony if the amount of actual damage is more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) but less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000);

(3) Class C felony if the amount of actual damage is more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) but less than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000); or

(4) Class B felony if the amount of actual damage is more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

(e) A person who knowingly tampers with, damages, or destroys a pipeline sign or right-of-way marker required by law or rule of the state upon conviction is guilty of a:

(1) Class A misdemeanor if the amount of actual damage is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or less;

(2) Class D felony if the amount of actual damage is more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) but less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000);

(3) Class C felony if the amount of actual damage is more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) but less than twenty-five thousand dollars

(\$25,000); or

(4) Class B felony if the amount of actual damage is more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

/s/Barnett

APPROVED: 04/18/2013