

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, **may possibly** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: Yes 06/20/2023
12/21/2023

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

CL/MM

Title 48.
Chapter 3.
Article 9. (New)
Above-Ground
Utility Lines:
Maintenance;
Removal
§§1-6
C.48:3-122
to 48:3-127
§7
Note

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 293, *approved January 16, 2024*
Assembly, No. 1100 (*Fifth Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the removal ³and marking³ of ³[abandoned]
2 certain³ lines ³[by certain entities]³ and supplementing Title 48
3 of the Revised ³[Statutes] Statutes³.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
9 Legislature as this bill):

10 “Abandoned” means any ⁵[telecommunications or cable]¹⁵ line
11 that ²: (1) is not terminated at both ends to equipment or to a
12 customer’s premises; (2) is not maintained in a safe condition; ³[or]³
13 (3)² ³is not intended for future use; or (4)³ has not been in operation
14 for a period of at least ¹[twelve] 24¹ consecutive months ¹, ²[not
15 including:] ³[unless] and³ the owner of a structure to which the line is
16 attached has ³[expressed interest to the entity in the future use of the
17 line] submitted a request for removal of the line pursuant to section 3
18 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)³.
19 The term “abandoned” shall not include² any line that is overlashed ²[
20 or any line that is connected to a residential or commercial building or
21 structure, which line is located in an area in which the owner of the
22 line acts as a provider of telecommunications or cable television
23 service, and for which line a written request for removal has not been
24 submitted pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
25 before the Legislature as this bill)¹]².

26 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities or any successor
27 agency.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted December 15, 2022.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted January 26, 2023.

³Senate SEG committee amendments adopted June 8, 2023.

⁴Senate floor amendments adopted June 20, 2023.

⁵Senate floor amendments adopted December 21, 2023.

1 ¹“Cable television service” means the same as the term is defined
 2 in section 3 of P.L.1972, c.186 (C.48:5A-3).

3 ⁵“Copper telephone line” means any ³above-ground³ copper
 4 telephone line that has been retired by an incumbent local exchange
 5 telecommunications company ³in accordance with federal law, if
 6 applicable,³ and ⁴is no longer in operation] has not been in operation
 7 for a period of at least 24 consecutive months⁴. ³The term “copper
 8 telephone line” shall not include any line that is overlashed.³]⁵

9 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.]¹

10 “Entity” means a person, municipality, utility, or corporation
 11 having ownership of a line ⁵[¹or copper telephone line¹]⁵ in this State,
 12 including ownership acquired by sale or corporate merger.

13 “Line” means an above-ground cable or wire attached to a pole,
 14 building, or other structure, used ¹or useful¹ for the provision of any
 15 telecommunications ¹service¹ or ¹[utility] cable television¹ service,
 16 ⁵including, but not limited to, a copper telephone line,⁵ and shall
 17 include any equipment or facility associated with that line attached to
 18 that pole, building, or other structure.

19 ⁴“Maintained in a safe condition” means any time in which the
 20 state of a line is in compliance with any applicable rules and
 21 regulations adopted by the board concerning plant and facility
 22 construction, which regulations shall include N.J.A.C.14:5-2.1,
 23 N.J.A.C.14:10-1A.12, and N.J.A.C.14:18-2.1, as applicable, as well as
 24 any other successor regulations.⁴

25 “Telecommunications service” means the ¹[electronic
 26 transmission, conveyance, or routing of voice, data, audio, video, or
 27 any other information or signals to a point, or between or among
 28 points] same as the term is defined in section 3 of P.L.1972, c.186
 29 (C.48:5A-3)¹.

30 “Utility” means any “public utility” as defined in R.S.48:2-13, or
 31 “local utility” as defined in section 3.1 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-
 32 4).

33
 34 2. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or order to the
 35 contrary, and in accordance with federal law, ¹if applicable,¹ an entity
 36 owning a line that is abandoned ¹[or permanently out of service]¹
 37 shall ³either correct the condition causing the line to be abandoned or³
 38 remove that line from all points of attachment ², ³[except as
 39 otherwise] as³ provided under subsection d. of section 3 of P.L. . . .
 40 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)².

41 b. ¹Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or order to the
 42 contrary, when an entity that owns one or more lines in the State
 43 ceases to do business in the State, the entity shall remove the lines
 44 from all points of attachment, except not including any line for which
 45 the ownership is transferred to another entity and the line is not
 46 otherwise deemed to be abandoned.

1 c. (1)¹ Following the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.)
 2 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and in accordance with
 3 federal law, ¹if applicable,¹ an entity that installs ¹[, or otherwise
 4 maintains,]¹ a ¹new¹ line ¹[over which] , which line is attached to a
 5 building or structure and owned by¹ the entity ¹[has ownership],¹
 6 shall mark ¹[both ends of] the end of¹ the line ¹attached to the
 7 building or structure¹ with the initials of the entity's name,
 8 abbreviation of the entity's name, corporate symbol, or other
 9 distinguishing mark or code by which ownership may be readily and
 10 definitely ascertained.

11 ¹(2) When an entity owns or maintains a line that is attached to a
 12 building or structure, which line was installed before the effective date
 13 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
 14 and the entity discovers that the line does not contain the markings
 15 specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the entity shall mark the
 16 end of the line attached to the building or structure with the initials of
 17 the entity's name, abbreviation of the entity's name, corporate symbol,
 18 or other distinguishing mark or code by which ownership may be
 19 readily and definitely ascertained. Nothing in this subsection shall be
 20 construed to require an entity to affirmatively search for any unmarked
 21 lines.¹
 22

23 3. a. ¹[Twelve] Beginning 12¹ months after the effective date of
 24 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), in
 25 accordance with federal law ¹, if applicable,¹ and ¹to the extent
 26 permitted under¹ any applicable pole attachment agreement, the owner
 27 of a pole, building, or other structure to which a suspected abandoned
 28 line is attached ¹[,]¹ may send a ²[written]² request ¹, in accordance
 29 with subsection c. of this section,¹ to the entity owning that line to
 30 request removal if the line is found to be abandoned by the entity.
 31 ²[¹Within five business days after receiving the written request, the
 32 entity shall transmit a copy of the written request to the board.¹]²

33 b. ¹[A pole attachment agreement or any other applicable
 34 agreement established or renewed after the effective date of P.L. , c.
 35 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) may include, in
 36 accordance with federal law, a provision requiring an entity to submit
 37 a security deposit, in an amount determined by the board or
 38 department, to the owner of a pole, building, or other structure to
 39 which the entity attaches a line, which shall be refunded to the entity
 40 once the line is removed.] Beginning 12 months after the effective
 41 date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
 42 bill), any person, municipality, utility, or corporation in the State may
 43 submit a²[written]² request, in accordance with subsection c. of this
 44 section, to the board for the removal of any suspected abandoned line,
 45 provided that the line is found to be abandoned by the entity owning
 46 the line. Within five business days after receiving the²[written]²
 47 request, the board shall transmit a written copy of the request to the

1 entity that owns the line. ²Nothing in this section shall prevent or
2 prohibit a person, municipality, utility, or corporation from directly
3 notifying an entity of a suspected abandoned line.²

4 c. (1) Within 10 months after the effective date of P.L. ,
5 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the board
6 shall prescribe the form and manner in which the owner of a pole,
7 building, or structure may submit a ²[written]² request, pursuant to
8 subsection a. of this section, for the removal of a suspected abandoned
9 line. ⁵In addition to any other information that the board deems
10 necessary, the form shall require the requestor to provide the pole
11 number, address, or latitude and longitude of the associated pole, and a
12 photograph of the abandoned line.⁵ At a minimum, the board shall
13 allow these requests to be submitted through the official Internet
14 website of the entity.

15 (2) Within 10 months after the effective date of P.L. ,
16 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the board
17 shall prescribe the form and manner in which a person, municipality,
18 utility, or corporation may submit a ²[written]² request, pursuant to
19 subsection b. of this section, for the removal of a suspected abandoned
20 line. ⁵In addition to any other information that the board deems
21 necessary, the form shall require the requestor to provide the pole
22 number, address, or latitude and longitude of the associated pole, and a
23 photograph of the abandoned line, if available.⁵ At a minimum, the
24 board shall allow these requests to be submitted through the official
25 Internet website of the board.

26 (3) Within 11 months after the effective date of P.L. ,
27 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the official
28 Internet website of the board and each entity owning one or more lines
29 in the State shall provide instructions, in a clear and conspicuous
30 manner, concerning the submission of the ²[written]² requests to
31 remove suspected abandoned lines ⁴and the rights of customers under
32 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)⁴ .

33 d. Within 30 calendar days after the date on which an entity
34 ²[received] receives² a ²[written]² request ²to remove a suspected
35 abandoned line,² submitted pursuant to ²[subsection a. or b. of]² this
36 section, the entity shall ³investigate and determine whether the line is
37 abandoned. If the line is deemed to be abandoned, within 30 calendar
38 days after the date of such determination, the entity shall either correct
39 the condition causing the line to be abandoned or³ ²remove the line ³[,
40 provided that the line is found to be abandoned by the entity]³.

41 e. Within 90 calendar days after the effective date of P.L. ,
42 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and every 90
43 calendar days thereafter, the entity shall² submit a written report to the
44 board, which report shall include ²a description of all ³notifications,³
45 complaints ³,³ and requests received by the entity ³[during the
46 previous 90-day period]³ ⁵, including all reports and notifications
47 received pursuant to section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending

1 before the Legislature as this bill),⁵ concerning a suspected abandoned
 2 line³ since the date on which the entity submitted its most recent report
 3 pursuant to this subsection³. For each³ notification,³ complaint^{3,3} or
 4 request, the report shall include² :

- 5 (1) ²[an assessment of whether the line is abandoned;
 6 (2) a determination of whether the line contains the markings
 7 required under subsection c. of section 2 of the P.L. , c. (C.)
 8 (pending before the Legislature as this bill);
 9 (3) the date on which the entity received the³ notification,³
 10 complaint^{3,3} or request;
 11 (2) the manner in which the³ notification,³ complaint^{3,3} or request
 12 was received;
 13 (3) ³[the date on which the entity resolved the complaint or
 14 request, if resolved;
 15 (4) ³ the basis of the entity's determination of whether the line is
 16 abandoned;
 17 ³³[(5)²] (4)³ a description of all actions undertaken by the entity
 18 with respect to the line, including any actions to remove², overlash,²
 19 or mark the line³, and the dates on which such actions were taken³;
 20 and
 21 ²³[(4)] ³[(6)²] (5)³ any other information that may be required by
 22 the board.¹

23 ³f. Beginning 12 months after the effective date⁴ of⁴ P.L. ,
 24 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and every 12
 25 months thereafter, each entity shall provide written notice to each
 26 customer of the entity, which notice shall inform customer⁴, in clear
 27 and conspicuous language, that the rights⁴ of the⁴ [provisions of]
 28 customer under⁴ P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
 29 as this bill) ⁴[and explain the processes through which the customer
 30 may submit a request for removal of a suspected abandoned line] can
 31 be found on the entity's official Internet website⁴. The written notice
 32 shall be provided in a form and manner⁴ [prescribed] approved⁴ by
 33 the board, except that the notice shall be provided to each customer
 34 using the same method as the entity provides a bill to the customer
 35 ⁴and in the same language as the bill is provided to the customer⁴, and
 36 the notice⁴ [shall be made available in both English and Spanish] may
 37 be included as a part of the customer's bill or as an additional notice to
 38 the customer^{4,3}.

39
 40 ¹4. a. If an entity fails to comply with any requirements of section
 41 2² or 3² of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
 42 bill), the entity may be subject to a fine, as set forth in this section,
 43 which fine shall be enforced by the board.

44 b. Before an entity may be subject to a fine under this section, the
 45 board shall provide the entity with written notice of the alleged
 46 violation. Within 30 calendar days of receiving the notice, the entity

1 shall be permitted to cure the alleged violation or demonstrate that the
 2 entity has not violated the requirements of section 2² or 3² of P.L. ,
 3 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4 c. If within 30 calendar days of receiving the notice, the entity
 5 fails to cure the alleged violation or fails to demonstrate that the entity
 6 has not violated the requirements of section 2² or 3² of P.L. ,
 7 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the board
 8 may impose a ⁴maximum aggregate⁴ fine of ⁴[\$100] ⁵[\$1,000⁴]
 9 \$500⁵ for each day in which the violation exists, beginning on the 31st
 10 calendar day after the submission of the written notice. In determining
 11 whether to impose a fine ²and, if appropriate, in determining the
 12 amount of the fine² , the board may consider the following factors:

13 (1) the nature, circumstances, and magnitude of the violations;

14 (2) the entity's history of prior violations during the prior three-
 15 year period;

16 (3) any good faith efforts by the entity to cure the violation within
 17 a reasonable time period following notice; and

18 (4) any other considerations that the board may deem appropriate.¹

19
 20 ⁵15. a Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or order to the
 21 contrary, ³[and] but³ in accordance with federal law, if applicable, an
 22 entity owning one or more copper telephone lines in this State shall
 23 remove each copper telephone line from all points of attachment, as
 24 provided in subsection b. of this section.

25 b. ³(1)³ Within 12 months after the effective date of ³[the]³
 26 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), an
 27 entity owning one or more copper telephone lines in the State shall
 28 submit a written plan to the board ⁴, as specified in paragraph (3) of
 29 this subsection,⁴ for the removal of each copper telephone line ³owned
 30 by the entity, as of the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.)
 31 (pending before the Legislature as this bill)³ . In addition to any other
 32 requirements that the board may deem necessary, the entity shall
 33 remove all ³such³ copper telephone lines owned by the entity within
 34 10 years following the submission of the report, except that no less
 35 than 10 percent of the copper telephone lines shall be removed during
 36 each year of this period.

37 ³(2) ⁴[Beginning] Within⁴ three years after the ⁴[effective date
 38 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
 39 bill)] submission of the written plan required under paragraph (1) of
 40 this subsection⁴ , and every three years thereafter, an entity owning
 41 one or more copper telephone lines in the State shall submit a written
 42 plan to the board ⁴, as specified in paragraph (3) of this subsection,⁴
 43 for the removal of any copper telephone line discovered by the entity
 44 after the date on which the entity last submitted a written plan to the
 45 board pursuant to this subsection. In addition to any other
 46 requirements that the board may deem necessary, the entity shall

1 remove all such copper telephone lines owned by the entity within 10
2 years following the submission of the report, except that no less than
3 10 percent of the copper telephone lines shall be removed during each
4 year of this period.³

5 ⁴(3) Within six months after the effective date of P.L. ,
6 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the board
7 shall specify the information that each entity shall include in the
8 written plans submitted pursuant to this subsection, as well as the
9 form and manner in which each entity shall submit the written
10 plans. Thereafter, the board may update, as necessary, the
11 information that shall be included in the written plans and the form
12 and manner in which the written plans shall be submitted.⁴

13 c. If an entity fails to comply with any requirements of this
14 section, the board may subject the entity to a fine, ³after notice,
15 hearing, and opportunity is provided to the entity for corrective or
16 remedial action,³ in such amounts as the board deems appropriate ³,
17 not to exceed a maximum aggregate fine of \$1,000 per day^{3.1}]⁵

18
19 ⁵[^{26.}] ⁵ ³During the course of the employee's employment,
20 each employee of an entity ⁵, or subcontractor of an entity,⁵ who is
21 responsible for installing lines or ⁴[providing] responding to⁴ service
22 calls ⁴[or in-person technical assistance]⁴ shall have an affirmative
23 duty to ⁴[investigate] report⁴ any line ⁴[owned by the entity to
24 determine whether the line is] that the employee ⁵reasonably believes
25 to be under the ownership of the employer, or in the case of the
26 employee of a subcontractor, under the ownership of the entity for
27 whom the subcontractor is engaged in work, and that the employee⁵
28 reasonably suspects to be⁴ abandoned ⁵[⁴and] ⁵ which line is attached
29 to a pole or structure ⁵[in]⁵ which the employee encounters during the
30 normal course of installing lines or responding to service calls^{4.3} If
31 ³[an] the³ employee of an entity ⁴who is responsible for installing
32 lines or responding to service calls⁴ discovers an abandoned line
33 during the ⁴normal⁴ course of the employee's ⁴[employment] work⁴,
34 the employee shall have an affirmative duty to ³either remove the
35 abandoned line, if authorized by the entity, or³ report the abandoned
36 line to the entity ³for further action³. ⁵[Within ³[five business] 90
37 calendar³ days of receiving the report, the entity shall transmit a copy
38 of the report to the board.²]⁵

39
40 ⁵[^{27.}] ^{6.} ⁵ The board may promulgate rules and regulations,
41 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
42 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the provisions of P.L. ,
43 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) for
44 entities under its jurisdiction, as applicable. The board may be
45 assisted, as appropriate, by other participating agencies,
46 departments, boards, and authorities, including the Office of

1 Information Technology, in the promulgation of such rules and
2 regulations as the board deems necessary.²

3

4 ¹~~[5.]~~ ²~~[6.]~~ ⁵~~[8.]~~ 7.⁵ This act shall take effect immediately,
5 but shall remain inoperative for 90 days from the date of enactment.

6

7

8

9

10 Requires entities to remove abandoned lines and mark
11 information on certain lines.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1100

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain entities to remove abandoned lines from poles and other structures to which abandoned or out-of-service lines are attached.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



A1100 CALABRESE

1 AN ACT concerning the removal of abandoned lines by certain
2 entities and supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

9 “Abandoned” means any line that has not been in operation for a
10 period of at least twelve consecutive months.

11 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities or any successor
12 agency.

13 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

14 “Entity” means a person, municipality, utility, or corporation
15 having ownership of a line in this State, including ownership
16 acquired by sale or corporate merger.

17 “Line” means an above-ground cable or wire attached to a pole,
18 building, or other structure, used for the provision of any
19 telecommunications or utility service, and shall include any
20 equipment or facility associated with that line attached to that pole,
21 building, or other structure.

22 “Telecommunications service” means the electronic
23 transmission, conveyance, or routing of voice, data, audio, video, or
24 any other information or signals to a point, or between or among
25 points.

26 “Utility” means any “public utility” as defined in R.S.48:2-13, or
27 “local utility” as defined in section 3.1 of P.L.1975, c.291
28 (C.40:55D-4).

29

30 2. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or order to the
31 contrary, and in accordance with federal law, an entity owning a
32 line that is abandoned or permanently out of service shall remove
33 that line from all points of attachment.

34 b. Following the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
35 before the Legislature as this bill) and in accordance with federal
36 law, an entity that installs, or otherwise maintains, a line over which
37 the entity has ownership shall mark both ends of the line with the
38 initials of the entity’s name, abbreviation of the entity’s name,
39 corporate symbol, or other distinguishing mark or code by which
40 ownership may be readily and definitely ascertained.

41

42 3. a. Twelve months after the effective date of P.L. , c.
43 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), in accordance
44 with federal law and any applicable pole attachment agreement, the
45 owner of a pole, building, or other structure to which a suspected
46 abandoned line is attached, may send a written request to the entity
47 owning that line to request removal if the line is found to be
48 abandoned by the entity.

A1100 CALABRESE

4

- 1 The bill requires the BPU and DCA to promulgate rules and
- 2 regulations to implement the provisions of the bill for entities under
- 3 their respective jurisdictions.

ASSEMBLY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1100

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 14, 2022

The Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1100.

As reported, this bill requires any entity having ownership of an above-ground line, as that term is defined in the bill, to remove that line if abandoned for at least twelve months or permanently out of service. The bill provides that, after the effective date of the bill, an entity that installs, or otherwise maintains, a line over which the entity has ownership is to mark both ends of the line with the initials of the entity's name, abbreviation of the entity's name, corporate symbol, or other distinguishing mark or code by which ownership may be readily and definitely ascertained.

Twelve months after the effective date of the bill, an owner of a pole, building, or other structure to which a suspected abandoned line is attached may send a written request to the entity that owns the line to remove the line if it is determined the line is abandoned.

The bill also provides that, after the effective date of the bill, any pole attachment or other applicable agreement established or renewed may include a provision requiring an entity to submit a security deposit, in an amount to be determined by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) or the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), to the owner of a pole, building, or other structure to which the entity attaches a line, which is to be refunded to the entity once the line is removed.

The bill requires the BPU and DCA to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the bill for entities under their respective jurisdictions.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint] **ASSEMBLY, No. 1100**

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 8, 2023

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1100 (2R), with committee amendments.

As amended and reported, this bill establishes several requirements concerning the maintenance and removal of certain telecommunications and cable lines, including the removal or correction of abandoned lines, the removal of copper telephone lines, and the marking of new and existing lines.

Removal of Abandoned Lines

The bill requires certain entities, including utilities, corporations, municipalities, and persons that own above-ground telecommunications or cable lines that are found to be abandoned, to either correct the condition that causes the line to be abandoned or remove the abandoned line from all points of attachment after receiving a request for removal submitted in accordance this bill. The bill also provides that when an entity ceases to do business in this State, the entity would be required to remove its lines from all points of attachment, except for any lines for which ownership was transferred to another entity and which is not otherwise deemed to be abandoned.

Under the bill, the owner of a pole, building, or other structure to which a suspected abandoned line is attached may submit a request for removal to the entity owning the line. The bill also permits any person, municipality, utility, or corporation to submit a request for removal of a suspected abandoned line to the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), which request would be transmitted to the entity that owns the line within five business days. In either case, the bill requires the BPU to prescribe the form and manner for the submission of these requests, except that the bill requires the BPU to allow these requests to be submitted through the official Internet websites of the entities and BPU, respectively.

Within 30 calendar days after receiving a request to remove a suspected abandoned line, the bill requires each entity to investigate and determine whether the line is abandoned. If the line is deemed to

be abandoned, the bill requires the entity to either correct the condition causing the line to be abandoned or remove the line from all points of attachment within 30 calendar days. Under the bill, an abandoned line would include any above-ground telecommunications or cable line that: (1) is not terminated at both ends to equipment or to a customer's premises; (2) is not maintained in a safe condition; (3) is not intended for future use; or (4) has not been in operation for a period of at least 24 consecutive months, and the owner of a structure to which the line is attached has submitted a request for removal of the line. However, the bill provides that any line that is overlashed would not be deemed to be abandoned.

Additionally, the bill requires each entity to submit a written report to the BPU every 90 calendar days beginning after the effective date of the bill, which report is required to describe all notifications, complaints, and requests received by the entity concerning a suspected abandoned line. The bill also requires each entity to provide annual written notice to its customers concerning the provisions of the bill and including an explanation of the processes through which the customer may submit a request for removal of a suspected abandoned line. The bill requires the BPU to prescribe a form and manner for the provision of this notice, except that the notice would be provided to each customer using the same method as the entity provides a bill to the customer, and the notice would be made available in both English and Spanish.

This bill also provides that during the course of the employee's employment, each employee of an entity who is responsible for installing lines or providing service calls or in-person technical assistance would have an affirmative duty to investigate any line owned by the entity to determine whether the line is abandoned. If the employee of an entity discovers an abandoned line during the course of the employee's employment, the employee would be required to either remove the abandoned line, if authorized by the entity, or report the abandoned line to the entity for further action. Within 90 calendar days of receiving the report, the entity would be required to transmit a copy of the report to the BPU.

Marking of Entity Lines

The bill provides that when an entity installs certain new lines, which lines are attached to a building or structure and owned by the entity, the entity would be required to mark certain information on the end of the line that is attached to the building or structure. This information would include the initials of the entity's name, abbreviation of the entity's name, corporate symbol, or other distinguishing mark or code by which ownership may be readily and definitely ascertained. The bill also provides that when an entity owns or maintains an existing line that is attached to a building or structure, which line was installed before the effective date of the bill and does

not contain the marking required under the bill, the entity would be required to mark this information on the end of the line that is attached to the building or structure after the entity discovers that the line does not contain the markings.

Penalty Provisions

Under the bill, an entity that fails to comply with the requirements of the bill concerning the removal of abandoned lines or the marking of lines may be subject to a fine after the BPU has submitted a written notice of an alleged violation to the entity. Specifically, the bill provides that if the entity fails to cure the alleged violation within 30 calendar days after receiving the notice, the BPU may impose a fine of \$100 for each day in which the violation exists, beginning on the 31st calendar day after the submission of the notice. The bill also sets forth various factors that the BPU may consider when determining whether to impose a fine, and if appropriate, the amount of the fine.

Removal of Copper Telephone Lines

The bill requires any entity owning one or more above-ground copper telephone lines, which lines are no longer in operation, to remove the lines from all points of attachment. Specifically, the bill requires each entity to submit a written plan to the BPU, within 12 months after the effective date of the bill, for the removal of all copper telephone lines. At a minimum, the bill requires each entity to remove all copper telephone lines owned by the entity within 10 years following the submission of the plan, except that no less than 10 percent of the lines may be removed during any year of this period. If an entity fails to comply with any requirements of the bill concerning the removal of copper telephone lines, the bill provides that the entity may be subject to a fine, in such amounts as the BPU deems appropriate.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 995, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments provide the following changes to the bill:

(1) revise the definition of “abandoned” to include any line that is not intended for future use. The amendments also provide that when a line has not been in operation for at least 24 consecutive months, the line would only be deemed “abandoned” if the owner of a structure to which the line is attached has submitted a request for removal of the line;

(2) revise the definition of “copper telephone line” to provide that the term is limited to above-ground copper telephone lines and lines

that have been retired in accordance with federal law, if applicable. The amendments also exclude overlashed lines from the definition of this term;

(3) provide that when a line is deemed to be abandoned, the entity owning the line would be required to either correct the condition causing the line to be abandoned or remove the line from all points of attachment. Previously, the bill only required these entities to remove the abandoned line from all points of attachment;

(4) provide that after an entity has received a request to remove a suspected abandoned line, the entity would be required to investigate and determine whether the line is abandoned within 30 calendar days of receiving the request. Thereafter, if the line is deemed to be abandoned, the entity would be required to either correct the condition causing the line to be abandoned or remove the line from all points of attachment within 30 calendar days of the date of such determination;

(5) revise certain requirements concerning the submission of written reports by entities to the BPU regarding suspected abandoned lines. The amendments require the written reports to include descriptions of all notifications received by the entity, in addition to all complaints and requests, regarding a suspected abandoned line. The amendments also clarify the pieces of information that are required to be included in the reports;

(6) require entities to provide annual, written notice to customers concerning the provisions of the bill and the processes through which a customer may request the removal of a suspected abandoned line;

(7) require entities that own copper telephone lines to submit written plans to the BPU, every three years after the effective date of the bill, for the removal of any copper telephone lines discovered by the entity after the submission of the initial written plan required under the bill;

(8) revise the penalty provisions for entities that fail to comply with the requirements of the bill concerning the removal of copper telephone lines;

(9) revise certain provisions of the bill concerning the affirmative duties of the employees of entities, including limiting the employees to which the duty applies, requiring employees to investigate and determine whether any lines owned by the entity are abandoned and requiring employees who discover an abandoned line to either remove the line, if authorized by the entity, or report the line to the entity for further action. The amendments also extend the period, from five business days to 90 calendar days, within which the entity is required to transmit a copy of these reports to the BPU; and

(10) provide technical corrections to the bill, including revisions to the title and synopsis of the bill.

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 1100

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman CALABRESE)

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 15, 2022

These floor amendments make various changes to the bill, including requiring the removal of certain “copper telephone lines,” revising the definition of “abandoned” lines, revising certain requirements concerning the removal and marking of lines, allowing additional persons and entities to request the removal of suspected abandoned lines, establishing reporting requirements for certain entities owning suspected abandoned lines, and establishing penalty provisions for entities that fail to comply with certain requirements of the bill.

Notably, the amendments require the owners of certain copper telephone lines, including those lines that have been retired by an incumbent local exchange telecommunications company and are no longer in operation, to remove each line from all points of attachment. As amended, the bill requires an entity owning one or more copper telephone lines in the State to submit a written plan to the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) for the removal of each copper telephone line. In addition to any other requirements imposed by the BPU, the entity would be required to remove: (1) all copper telephone lines within 10 years following the submission of this report; and (2) no less than 10 percent of the copper telephone lines during each year of this period. The amendments also permit the BPU to impose a fine on any entity that fails to comply with these requirements.

In addition, the amendments revise the definition of “abandoned” to include any telecommunications or cable line that has not been in operation for a period of at least 24 consecutive months. As introduced, this term would only have included lines that have not been in operation for a period of at least 12 consecutive months. However, the amendments also exclude the following lines from the definition of “abandoned”: (1) any line that is overlashed; or (2) any line that is connected to a residential or commercial building or structure, which line is located in an area in which the owner of the line acts as a provider of telecommunications or cable television service, and for which line a written request for removal has not been submitted pursuant to the bill.

The amendments also impose certain additional requirements upon entities that own lines within the State. Specifically, the amendments provide that when an entity that owns one or more lines in the State ceases to do business in the State, the entity would be required to remove the lines from all points of attachment, except not including

any lines for which the ownership is transferred to another entity and the line is not otherwise deemed to be abandoned.

Additionally, the amendments revise certain provisions of the bill concerning the marking of lines. As introduced, an entity that installs or maintains a line would have been required to mark certain information on both ends of all lines owned by the entity. As amended, the bill instead provides that an entity would only be required to mark lines that are attached to a building or structure and that these markings would be required in the following circumstances: (1) when the entity installs a new line after the effective date of the bill; and (2) for any line installed before the effective date of the bill, when the entity discovers that the line does not contain the required markings. The amendments also require these markings to be made on the end of the line attached to the adjoining building or structure.

The amendments also revise the process in which certain persons may submit a written request to remove a suspected abandoned line. As introduced, the bill permitted the owners of a pole, building, or structure to submit a written request for the removal of a suspected abandoned line, which request would be sent to the entity owning the line. As amended, the bill would also permit any person, municipality, utility, or corporation in the State to submit a written request to the BPU for the removal of a suspected abandoned line. In this circumstance, the BPU would be required to transmit a copy of the request to the entity owning the suspected abandoned line within five business days. In contrast, when a written request is sent to the entity owning the suspected abandoned line by the owner of the pole, building, or structure to which the suspected abandoned line is attached, the amendments also require the entity to forward a copy of the request to the BPU within five business days.

The amendments require the BPU to prescribe the form and manner in which these written requests may be submitted. However, the amendments provide that in either circumstance, the written request may be submitted using the official Internet website of the BPU or entity, as applicable. The amendments also provide that within 11 months of the effective date of the bill, the BPU's website and the website of each entity owning one or more lines in New Jersey would be required to provide instruction concerning the submission of written requests to remove suspected abandoned lines.

As amended, the bill also provides that within 30 calendar days after receiving a written request to remove a suspected abandoned line, the entity would be required to submit a report to the BPU, including (1) an assessment of whether the line is abandoned; (2) a determination of whether the line contains the markings required under the bill; (3) a description of all actions undertaken by the entity with respect to the line, including any actions to remove or mark the line; and (4) any other information that may be required by the BPU.

The amendments also authorize the BPU to impose a fine on any entity that violates certain requirements of the bill concerning the removal and marking of certain lines. Before imposing a fine, the BPU would be required to provide written notice of the alleged violation to the entity. Within 30 calendar days of receiving this

notice, the entity would be permitted to cure the alleged violation or demonstrate that a violation has not occurred. Thereafter, the BPU may impose a fine of \$100 for each day in which the violation exists, beginning on the 31st calendar day after the submission of the written notice. In determining whether to impose a fine, the board may consider certain factors set forth in the bill, as amended.

The amendments also change the synopsis of the bill, revise the definition of “telecommunications service,” provide a definition for “cable television service,” revise the definition of “line” to include those used for the provision of cable television service, and remove certain provisions of the bill, including a requirement for the BPU and Department of Community Affairs to adopt regulations necessary to implement the bill.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 1100

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman CALABRESE)

ADOPTED: JANUARY 26, 2023

These floor amendments provide various changes to the definition of “abandoned,” including: (1) expanding the term to include any telecommunications or cable line that is not terminated at both ends to equipment or to a customer’s premises, as well as any telecommunications or cable line that is not maintained in a safe condition; (2) excluding any telecommunications or cable line that has not been in operation for at least 24 consecutive months, provided that the owner of a structure to which the line is attached has expressed interest to the entity in the future use of the line; and (3) removing an exclusion for certain lines for which a written request for removal was not submitted.

The amendments provide that if an entity determines that a line is abandoned, the entity would be required to remove the line within 30 calendar days of receiving the request for removal. The amendments also remove the requirement for these requests to be submitted in written form. The amendments also clarify that nothing in this bill would prevent or prohibit a person, municipality, utility, or corporation from directly notifying an entity of a suspected abandoned line.

Additionally, the amendments revise the process through which an entity is required to report requests for the removal of abandoned lines to the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Specifically, the amendments remove a requirement for entities to transmit a copy of any request for removal, submitted by the owner of a structure to which the line is attached, within five business days of receiving the request. The amendments also remove a requirement for entities to submit individual reports to the BPU, within 30 calendar days of receiving a request for removal, which report would document all actions taken by the entity concerning the request. Instead, the amendments require each entity to submit a written report to the BPU every 90 calendar days, which report describes all complaints and requests received by the entity during the reporting period concerning a suspected abandoned line.

The amendments also provide that if an employee of an entity discovers an abandoned line during the course of the employee’s employment, the employee would have an affirmative duty to report the abandoned line to the entity. Thereafter, the entity would be required to transmit a copy of the report to the BPU within five business days.

In addition, the amendments provide that an entity may be subject to a fine for any violation of section 2 or 3 of the bill. Previously, a fine could only have been imposed for a violation of section 2 of the bill. The amendments also clarify that the BPU may also consider certain factors set forth in the bill when determining the amount of any fine that may be imposed upon an entity.

The amendments also authorize the BPU to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this bill with respect to any entities under its jurisdiction. The amendments also provide that the BPU may be assisted by other agencies and departments in the promulgation of these rules and regulations.

STATEMENT TO
[Third Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 1100

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator RUIZ)

ADOPTED: JUNE 20, 2023

These Senate floor amendments provide the following changes to the bill:

(1) revise the definition of the term “copper telephone line” to provide that the term includes those lines that have not been in operation for a period of at least 24 consecutive months, instead of those lines that are no longer in operation;

(2) define the phrase “maintained in a safe condition,” which term is used to determine whether a line is considered to be abandoned. As amended, the bill defines “maintained in a safe condition” as any time in which the state of a line is in compliance with any applicable rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Public Utilities (board) concerning plant and facility construction, including N.J.A.C.14:5-2.1, N.J.A.C.14:10-1A.12, and N.J.A.C.14:18-2.1, as applicable, as well as any other successor regulations;

(3) require the official Internet websites of the board and each entity owning lines in the State to provide instructions concerning the rights of customers under the bill, which instructions would be in addition to those concerning the submission of requests to remove suspected abandoned lines;

(4) revise certain requirements of the bill concerning the provision of annual, written notice to customers, including (i) clarifying that the notice is required to be provided in clear and conspicuous language; (ii) requiring the notice to indicate that the rights of the customer can be found on the entity’s official Internet website; (iii) requiring the notice to be provided in the same language as the customer’s bill; and (iv) allowing the notice to be provided as part of the customer’s bill or as an additional notice;

(5) provide that an entity that violates the requirements of the bill concerning the removal of abandoned lines and the marking lines could be subject to a maximum aggregate fine of \$1,000 for each day in which the violation exists, not \$100 per day as previously provided in the bill;

(6) revise certain requirements of the bill concerning the submission of written plans to remove copper telephone lines, including (i) requiring the board to specify the information that is required to be included in each written plan, as well as the form and manner in which each plan is required to be submitted; and (ii) providing that the on-going requirement to submit written plans for the removal of copper telephone lines would begin within three years after

each entity submits the initial plan required under the bill, not three years after the effective date of the bill; and

(7) revise certain requirements of the bill concerning the affirmative duty of certain entity employees, including (i) limiting the applicability of these requirements to those employees who are responsible for installing lines or responding to service calls, but not employees who provide in-person technical assistance, as previously included in the bill; (ii) revising the scope of the affirmative duty to provide that these employees are required to report, not investigate, any line that is reasonably suspected to be abandoned and which line is attached to a pole or structure in which the employee encounters during the normal course of installing lines or responding to service calls; and (iii) clarifying that the affirmative duty would only apply during the normal course of the employees' work.

STATEMENT TO
[Fourth Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 1100

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator RUIZ)

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 21, 2023

These Senate floor amendments provide the following changes to the bill:

(1) revise the definition of the term “line” to include a copper telephone line, thereby providing that all provisions of the bill concerning the removal and marking of lines also apply to copper telephone lines;

(2) remove the requirement for the owners of certain copper telephone lines, which have not been used for 24 consecutive months, to remove all such copper telephone lines over a 10-year period based on a written plan submitted to the Board of Public Utilities (board);

(3) require any forms submitted by the owner of a pole, building, or structure for the removal of a suspected abandoned line to include a requirement that the requestor provide the pole number, address, or latitude and longitude of the associated pole, and a photograph of the abandoned line;

(4) require any forms submitted by a person, municipality, utility, or corporation for the removal of a suspected abandoned line include a requirement that the requestor provide the pole number, address, or latitude and longitude of the associated pole, and a photograph of the abandoned line, if available;

(5) clarify that the regular written reports submitted by an entity to the board concerning the notifications, complaints, and requests for a suspected abandoned line are required to include a description of all reports and notifications received from an employee of the entity or an employee of the subcontractor of the entity;

(6) provide that an entity that violates the requirements of the bill concerning the removal of abandoned lines and the marking lines are subject to a maximum aggregate fine of \$500 for each day in which the violation exists, instead of \$1,000 per day as previously provided in the bill;

(7) revise the requirement for certain employees to report certain suspected abandoned lines, including (1) providing that the employee of the subcontractor of an entity also has an affirmative duty to report such lines; and (2) limiting the scope of this duty to those lines that the employee reasonably believes to be under the ownership of the employer, or in the case of the employee of a subcontractor, those lines under the ownership of the entity for whom the subcontractor is engaged in work;

(8) remove the requirement for an entity to transmit to the board a copy of an employee's report that a line is abandoned, within 90 calendar days of receipt, separately from the regular written report updating the board on all notifications, complaints, and requests received by the entity; and

(9) provide technical changes to the bill, including the renumbering of sections and revising the synopsis of the bill.

SENATE, No. 995

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 31, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Cryan and Sacco

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain entities to remove abandoned lines from poles and other structures to which abandoned or out-of-service lines are attached.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/9/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the removal of abandoned lines by certain
2 entities and supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

9 “Abandoned” means any line that has not been in operation for a
10 period of at least twelve consecutive months.

11 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities or any successor
12 agency.

13 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

14 “Entity” means a person, municipality, utility, or corporation
15 having ownership of a line in this State, including ownership
16 acquired by sale or corporate merger.

17 “Line” means an above-ground cable or wire attached to a pole,
18 building, or other structure, used for the provision of any
19 telecommunications or utility service, and shall include any
20 equipment or facility associated with that line attached to that pole,
21 building, or other structure.

22 “Telecommunications service” means the electronic
23 transmission, conveyance, or routing of voice, data, audio, video, or
24 any other information or signals to a point, or between or among
25 points.

26 “Utility” means any “public utility” as defined in R.S.48:2-13, or
27 “local utility” as defined in section 3.1 of P.L.1975, c.291
28 (C.40:55D-4).

29

30 2. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or order to the
31 contrary, and in accordance with federal law, an entity owning a
32 line that is abandoned or permanently out of service shall remove
33 that line from all points of attachment.

34 b. Following the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.)
35 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and in accordance with
36 federal law, an entity that installs, or otherwise maintains, a line
37 over which the entity has ownership shall mark both ends of the line
38 with the initials of the entity’s name, abbreviation of the entity’s
39 name, corporate symbol, or other distinguishing mark or code by
40 which ownership may be readily and definitely ascertained.

41

42 3. a. Twelve months after the effective date of
43 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
44 in accordance with federal law and any applicable pole attachment
45 agreement, the owner of a pole, building, or other structure to which
46 a suspected abandoned line is attached may send a written request
47 to the entity owning that line to request removal if the line is found
48 to be abandoned by the entity.

S995 RUIZ, STACK

4

- 1 The bill requires the BPU and DCA to promulgate rules and
- 2 regulations to implement the provisions of the bill for entities under
- 3 their respective jurisdictions.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 995

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 8, 2023

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 995, with committee amendments.

As amended and reported, this bill establishes several requirements concerning the maintenance and removal of certain telecommunications and cable lines, including the removal or correction of abandoned lines, the removal of copper telephone lines, and the marking of new and existing lines.

Removal of Abandoned Lines

The bill requires certain entities, including utilities, corporations, municipalities, and persons that own above-ground telecommunications or cable lines that are found to be abandoned, to either correct the condition that causes the line to be abandoned or remove the abandoned line from all points of attachment after receiving a request for removal submitted in accordance with this bill. The bill also provides that when an entity ceases to do business in this State, the entity would be required to remove its lines from all points of attachment, except for any lines for which ownership was transferred to another entity and which is not otherwise deemed to be abandoned.

Under the bill, the owner of a pole, building, or other structure to which a suspected abandoned line is attached may submit a request for removal to the entity owning the line. The bill also permits any person, municipality, utility, or corporation to submit a request for removal of a suspected abandoned line to the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), which request would be transmitted to the entity that owns the line within five business days. In either case, the bill requires the BPU to prescribe the form and manner for the submission of these requests, except that the bill requires the BPU to allow these requests to be submitted through the official Internet websites of the entities and BPU, respectively.

Within 30 calendar days after receiving a request to remove a suspected abandoned line, the bill requires each entity to investigate and determine whether the line is abandoned. If the line is deemed to be abandoned, the bill requires the entity to either correct the condition causing the line to be abandoned or remove the line from all points of

attachment within 30 calendar days. Under the bill, an abandoned line would include any above-ground telecommunications or cable line that: (1) is not terminated at both ends to equipment or to a customer's premises; (2) is not maintained in a safe condition; (3) is not intended for future use; or (4) has not been in operation for a period of at least 24 consecutive months, and the owner of a structure to which the line is attached has submitted a request for removal of the line. However, the bill provides that any line that is overlashed would not be deemed to be abandoned.

Additionally, the bill requires each entity to submit a written report to the BPU every 90 calendar days beginning after the effective date of the bill, which report is required to describe all notifications, complaints, and requests received by the entity concerning a suspected abandoned line. The bill also requires each entity to provide annual written notice to its customers concerning the provisions of the bill and including an explanation of the processes through which the customer may submit a request for removal of a suspected abandoned line. The bill requires the BPU to prescribe a form and manner for the provision of this notice, except that the notice would be provided to each customer using the same method as the entity provides a bill to the customer, and the notice would be made available in both English and Spanish.

This bill also provides that during the course of the employee's employment, each employee of an entity who is responsible for installing lines or providing service calls or in-person technical assistance would have an affirmative duty to investigate any line owned by the entity to determine whether the line is abandoned. If the employee of an entity discovers an abandoned line during the course of the employee's employment, the employee would be required to either remove the abandoned line, if authorized by the entity, or report the abandoned line to the entity for further action. Within 90 calendar days of receiving the report, the entity would be required to transmit a copy of the report to the BPU.

Marking of Entity Lines

The bill provides that when an entity installs certain new lines, which lines are attached to a building or structure and owned by the entity, the entity would be required to mark certain information on the end of the line that is attached to the building or structure. This information would include the initials of the entity's name, abbreviation of the entity's name, corporate symbol, or other distinguishing mark or code by which ownership may be readily and definitely ascertained. The bill also provides that when an entity owns or maintains an existing line that is attached to a building or structure, which line was installed before the effective date of the bill and does not contain the marking required under the bill, the entity would be required to mark this information on the end of the line that is attached

to the building or structure after the entity discovers that the line does not contain the markings.

Penalty Provisions

Under the bill, an entity that fails to comply with the requirements of the bill concerning the removal of abandoned lines or the marking of lines may be subject to a fine after the BPU has submitted a written notice of an alleged violation to the entity. Specifically, the bill provides that if the entity fails to cure the alleged violation within 30 calendar days after receiving the notice, the BPU may impose a fine of \$100 for each day in which the violation exists, beginning on the 31st calendar day after the submission of the notice. The bill also sets forth various factors that the BPU may consider when determining whether to impose a fine, and if appropriate, the amount of the fine.

Removal of Copper Telephone Lines

The bill requires any entity owning one or more above-ground copper telephone lines, which lines are no longer in operation, to remove the lines from all points of attachment. Specifically, the bill requires each entity to submit a written plan to the BPU, within 12 months after the effective date of the bill, for the removal of all copper telephone lines. At a minimum, the bill requires each entity to remove all copper telephone lines owned by the entity within 10 years following the submission of the plan, except that no less than 10 percent of the lines may be removed during any year of this period. If an entity fails to comply with any requirements of the bill concerning the removal of copper telephone lines, the bill provides that the entity may be subject to a fine, in such amounts as the BPU deems appropriate.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1100 (2R), which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments provide the following changes to the bill:

(1) revise the definitions of various terms used in the bill, including the terms “abandoned,” “entity,” and “line,” and insert definitions for certain other terms, including “copper telephone line”;

(2) provide that when a line is deemed to be abandoned, the entity owning the line would be required to either correct the condition causing the line to be abandoned or remove the line from all points of attachment. As introduced, the bill required these entities to remove any line that was abandoned or permanently out of service from all points of attachment;

(3) require an entity that ceases to do business in the State to remove abandoned lines from all points of attachment, except for any lines for which ownership is transferred to another entity;

(4) revise the manner in which entities would be required to mark certain information on new and existing lines. The amendments provides that an entity would only be required to mark the end of the line attached to a building or structure, and the clarifies that the entity would only be required to mark existing lines upon the discovery that the line does not contain the markings required under the bill;

(5) remove the requirement for all requests for the removal of a suspected abandoned line to be submitted in written form;

(6) remove a provision of the bill that authorized pole attachment agreements to require entities to pay security deposits to the owners of certain premises, which deposits would be refunded upon the removal of a line;

(7) allow any person, municipality, utility, or corporation to submit a request to the BPU for the removal of a suspected abandoned line, provided the line is found to be abandoned by the entity owning the line;

(8) require the BPU to prescribe the form and manner in which: (i) the owner of a pole, building, or other structure to which a suspected abandoned line is attached may submit a request for removal to the entity owning the line; and (ii) any other person, municipality, utility, or corporation may submit a request for removal to the BPU;

(9) provide that after an entity has received a request to remove a suspected abandoned line, the entity would be required to investigate and determine whether the line is abandoned within 30 calendar days of receiving the request. Thereafter, if the line is deemed to be abandoned, the entity would be required to either correct the condition causing the line to be abandoned or remove the line from all points of attachment within 30 calendar days of the date of such determination;

(10) require entities to submit written reports to the BPU every 90 days, which reports describe all notifications, complaints, and requests received by the entity regarding a suspected abandoned line and explains all actions undertaken by the entity in response to these notifications, complaints, and requests;

(11) require entities to provide annual, written notice to customers concerning the provisions of the bill and the processes through which a customer may request the removal of a suspected abandoned line;

(12) establish penalty provisions for entities that fail to comply with the requirements of the bill concerning the removal of abandoned lines and the marking of lines;

(13) require entities that own copper telephone lines to submit written plans to the BPU for the removal of all copper telephone lines owned by the entity, which plans would provide for the removal of all such lines over a 10-year period. As amended, the bill would require each entity to submit a written report within 12 months after the

effective date of the bill for the removal of all copper telephone lines known upon the effective date of the bill. Beginning three years after the effective date of the bill, and every three years thereafter, each entity would be required to submit a written plan for the removal of all copper telephone lines discovered after the submission of the previous plan submitted by the entity;

(14) establish penalty provisions for entities that fail to comply with the requirements of the bill concerning the removal of copper telephone lines;

(15) establish an affirmative duty for certain employees of entities, during the course of their employment, to investigate and determine whether any lines owned by the entity are abandoned. The amendments also require employees who discover an abandoned line to either remove the line, if authorized by the entity, or report the line to the entity for further action, and require the entities to transmit copies of these reports to the BPU;

(16) authorize the BPU to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this bill. As introduced, the bill would have required the BPU and Department of Community Affairs to adopt rules and regulations to implement the bill; and

(17) provide technical corrections to the bill, including revisions to the title and synopsis of the bill.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 995

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator RUIZ)

ADOPTED: JUNE 20, 2023

These Senate floor amendments provide the following changes to the bill:

(1) revise the definition of the term “copper telephone line” to provide that the term includes those lines that have not been in operation for a period of at least 24 consecutive months, instead of those lines that are no longer in operation;

(2) define the phrase “maintained in a safe condition,” which term is used to determine whether a line is considered to be abandoned. As amended, the bill defines “maintained in a safe condition” as any time in which the state of a line is in compliance with any applicable rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Public Utilities (board) concerning plant and facility construction, including N.J.A.C.14:5-2.1, N.J.A.C.14:10-1A.12, and N.J.A.C.14:18-2.1, as applicable, as well as any other successor regulations;

(3) require the official Internet websites of the board and each entity owning lines in the State to provide instructions concerning the rights of customers under the bill, which instructions would be in addition to those concerning the submission of requests to remove suspected abandoned lines;

(4) revise certain requirements of the bill concerning the provision of annual, written notice to customers, including (i) clarifying that the notice is required to be provided in clear and conspicuous language; (ii) requiring the notice to indicate that the rights of the customer can be found on the entity’s official Internet website; (iii) requiring the notice to be provided in the same language as the customer’s bill; and (iv) allowing the notice to be provided as part of the customer’s bill or as an additional notice;

(5) provide that an entity that violates the requirements of the bill concerning the removal of abandoned lines and the marking lines could be subject to a maximum aggregate fine of \$1,000 for each day in which the violation exists, not \$100 per day as previously provided in the bill;

(6) revise certain requirements of the bill concerning the submission of written plans to remove copper telephone lines, including (i) requiring the board to specify the information that is required to be included in each written plan, as well as the form and manner in which each plan is required to be submitted; and (ii) providing that the on-going requirement to submit written plans for the removal of copper telephone lines would begin within three years after

each entity submits the initial plan required under the bill, not three years after the effective date of the bill; and

(7) revise certain requirements of the bill concerning the affirmative duty of certain entity employees, including (i) limiting the applicability of these requirements to those employees who are responsible for installing lines or responding to service calls, but not employees who provide in-person technical assistance, as previously included in the bill; (ii) revising the scope of the affirmative duty to provide that these employees are required to report, not investigate, any line that is reasonably suspected to be abandoned and which line is attached to a pole or structure in which the employee encounters during the normal course of installing lines or responding to service calls; and (iii) clarifying that the affirmative duty would only apply during the normal course of the employees' work.

STATEMENT TO
[Second Reprint]
SENATE, No. 995

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator RUIZ)

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 21, 2023

These Senate floor amendments provide the following changes to the bill:

(1) revise the definition of the term “line” to include a copper telephone line, thereby providing that all provisions of the bill concerning the removal and marking of lines also apply to copper telephone lines;

(2) remove the requirement for the owners of certain copper telephone lines, which have not been used for 24 consecutive months, to remove all such copper telephone lines over a 10-year period based on a written plan submitted to the Board of Public Utilities (board);

(3) require any forms submitted by the owner of a pole, building, or structure for the removal of a suspected abandoned line to include a requirement that the requestor provide the pole number, address, or latitude and longitude of the associated pole, and a photograph of the abandoned line;

(4) require any forms submitted by a person, municipality, utility, or corporation for the removal of a suspected abandoned line include a requirement that the requestor provide the pole number, address, or latitude and longitude of the associated pole, and a photograph of the abandoned line, if available;

(5) clarify that the regular written reports submitted by an entity to the board concerning the notifications, complaints, and requests for a suspected abandoned line are required to include a description of all reports and notifications received from an employee of the entity or an employee of the subcontractor of the entity;

(6) provide that an entity that violates the requirements of the bill concerning the removal of abandoned lines and the marking lines are subject to a maximum aggregate fine of \$500 for each day in which the violation exists, instead of \$1,000 per day as previously provided in the bill;

(7) revise the requirement for certain employees to report certain suspected abandoned lines, including (1) providing that the employee of the subcontractor of an entity also has an affirmative duty to report such lines; and (2) limiting the scope of this duty to those lines that the employee reasonably believes to be under the ownership of the employer, or in the case of the employee of a subcontractor, those lines under the ownership of the entity for whom the subcontractor is engaged in work;

(8) remove the requirement for an entity to transmit to the board a copy of an employee's report that a line is abandoned, within 90 calendar days of receipt, separately from the regular written report updating the board on all notifications, complaints, and requests received by the entity; and

(9) provide technical changes to the bill, including the renumbering of sections and revising the synopsis of the bill.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

01/16/2024

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

SCS for S-281/ACS for A-3791 (Greenstein, Turner/Sumter, Reynolds-Jackson) – w/STATEMENT - Concerns automatic fire sprinkler systems within newly constructed townhouses
[Copy of Statement](#)

S-539wGR/A-2140 (Ruiz, Pou/Reynolds-Jackson, Wimberly, Mosquera) - Permits online purchase of eligible foods using WIC funds and use of WIC funds for grocery delivery ch

S-659/A-2014 (Oroho, Greenstein/Conaway, Wirths, Umba) - "Manufacturing in Higher Education Act"; requires various State entities to promote manufacturing career pathways students and provides assistance to manufacturing industry

S-1110/A-3936 (Polistina, Singleton/Guardian, Swift, McClellan) - Authorizes CRDA to finance transportation projects between Atlantic City Airport and Atlantic City Tourism Dis

S-1662/A-3526 (Ruiz, Codey/Lampitt, Benson, Sauickie) - Requires NJ Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory Council to prepare report regarding suicide prevention instruction in pu schools

S-1680wGR/A-2257 (Pou, Ruiz/Murphy, Quijano, Wimberly) - Designates each community college in State as provider of allowable services under SNAP employment and training program

S-2076/ACS for A-3319 (Zwicker, Greenstein/McKnight, Lampitt) - Establishes "Twelfth Grade Postsecondary Transition Year Pilot Program" in Department of Education

S-2535wGR/A-4048 (Polistina, Pou/Benson, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson, Carter) - Requires health benefits coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants

S-2841/A-4292 (Scutari, Bramnick/Carter) - Raises minimum amount of liability coverage for commercial motor vehicles and autocabs

SCS for S-3080/ACS for-398 (Ruiz, Burgess/Caputo, Giblin, Tucker) - Establishes position of Youth Disconnection Prevention and Recovery Ombudsperson; establishes "School Disconnection Prevention Task Force"; appropriates \$200,000

S-3102/A-4715 (Smith, Singleton/Stanley, Benson) - Establishes uptime requirement for electric vehicle charging station incentive programs

S-3176/A-4760 (Greenstein, Smith/Swain, Haider, Tully) - Requires DEP and Drinking Water Quality Institute to perform study concerning regulation and treatment of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

SCS for S-3632 and 3649w/GR/ACS for A-1948 (Johnson, Cryan/Haider, Conaway, Quijano) - Requires labeling of non-flushable disposable wipes

S-3758/A-5343 (Cryan/Karabinchak) - Changes deadline for unaffiliated mail-in voters to declare their political party before primary election

S-3837/A-5438 (Pou, Cruz-Perez/Pintor Marin, Wimberly) - Clarifies process for administrative appropriations to UEZs

S-3897/A-5578 (Ruiz, Sarlo/Jasey, Carter, Reynolds-Jackson) - Authorizes Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to award annual summer tuition aid grants

S-4040/A-5881 (Polistina, Lagana/Tully, Guardian, Swift) - Concerns jurisdiction and operations of regional municipal courts

S-4084/A-5851 (Ruiz, Cruz-Perez/Moriarty, Calabrese, Moen) - Concerns temporary registration certificates and license plates

S-4130/A-5849 (Codey/Jasey, Tucker) - Special legislation to change name of "Township of South Orange Village" to "South Orange Village"; changes titles of certain municipal officials; permits nonpartisan municipal elections to be moved to November; permits stipend for governing body members

S-4206/A-5856 (Sarlo/Calabrese) - Changes number of signatures required on primary election petition to nominate certain municipal candidates in certain municipalities

S-4209/A-5879 (Sarlo/Pintor Marin) - Eliminates vote on school budgets for Type II school districts in April elections, except for separate proposals to spend above cap

S-4268/A-5911 (Scutari/Danielsen) - Permits certain special State officers to represent cannabis businesses

A-203/S-2884 (Rooney, Benson, Caputo/A.M. Bucco) - Authorizes creation of special license plates commemorating horse as State animal

A-1100/S-995 (Calabrese, Mukherji, McKnight/Ruiz, Stack) - Requires entities to remove abandoned lines and mark information on certain lines

A-1107/S-770 (Chaparro, Murphy, Mukherji/Pou, Beach) - Directs Chief Technology Officer to conduct study on impacts of redacting handwritten signatures published on State websites; allows for protocols for such redactions to be established by rules and regulations

ACS for A-1255/SS for S-1794 (Stanley, Conaway, Benson/Gopal, Singer) - Updates requirements and standards for authorization and prior authorization of health care services

A-1727/S-3300 (Speight, Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli/Stanfield, Ruiz) - Requires Attorney General to perform outreach and provide services to victims of human trafficking under certain circumstances

A-1729/S-3550 (Speight, Reynolds-Jackson, McKnight/Greenstein, Ruiz) - Requires AG to address human trafficking in underserved communities

A-1755/S-2505 (McKeon, Calabrese, Conaway/Smith, Greenstein) - Requires installation of operational automatic rain sensor or smart sprinkler as condition of sale of certain re properties, and on certain commercial, retail, and industrial properties and common interest communities within specified timeframes

A-2146wGR/S-855 (Reynolds-Jackson, Wimberly, Sumter/Singleton, Beach) - Creates State business assistance program to establish contracting agency procurement goals for socially and economically disadvantaged business enterprises

A-2581/S-2503 (Lampitt, Park/Beach) - Provides that certain cosmetology and hairstyling courses may be taught using distance learning technology

A-3142/S-1564 (Moen, Moriarty, Benson/Singleton, Corrado) - Authorizes grants to purchase and rehabilitate abandoned homes for homeless veterans

A-3211/S-2302 (Speight, Haider, Swain/Gopal, Ruiz) - Establishes "New Jersey Feminine Hygiene Products for the Homeless Act"

A-3980/S-2706 (Speight, McKnight, Atkins/Zwicker, Turner) - Grants child placed in resource family care and resource family parents the right to be notified when case manager

supervisor is assigned to child; grants child in resource family care right to be notified of certain property and benefits

A-4033wGR/S-2657 (Coughlin, Wimberly/Sarlo, Ruiz) - Extends deadline for completion of school district's annual audit

A-4049/S-3495 (McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson, Benson/Vitale, Johnson) - Provides for presumptive eligibility for home and community-based services and services provided thru program of all-inclusive care for the elderly under Medicaid

A-4105/S-4202 (Lopez, Jimenez, Quijano/Vitale, Turner) - Establishes Interagency Council on Homelessness

A-4183/S-4264 (Haider/Singleton) - Concerns local unit filing requirement for certain shared services agreements

A-4212/S-2762 (Pintor Marin, Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli/Ruiz, Cunningham) - Establishes Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent Evaluation of New Jersey at Thomas Edison State University

A-4337/S-4156 (Conaway, Atkins, Rooney/Singleton, Pou) - Requires Department of Health to provide information to Statewide 2-1-1 telephone system regarding the location of disposal sites for hypodermic syringes and needles and prescription drugs

ACS for A-4496/SCS for S-3247 (Coughlin, Lampitt, Karabinchak, Wimberly/Zwicker, Greenstein) - Revises various provisions of law governing construction of school facilities projects and operations of New Jersey Schools Development Authority; establishes "Charter School and Renaissance School Project Facilities Loan Program" in EDA

A-4522/S-3234 (Moen, McKnight, Quijano/Singer, Singleton) - Requires certain disclosures by sellers of single-family homes with solar panels installed

A-4691/S-1530 (Swain, DeAngelo, Speight/Greenstein, Zwicker) - Requires hazard mitigation plans to include climate change-related threat assessments and hazard prevention mitigation strategies

A-4723/S-2740 (McKeon, Moriarty, Rooney/Codey, Scutari) - Requires motor vehicle dealer to offer to delete personal information in motor vehicles in certain situations

A-4791/S-3184 (Kennedy, Haider, McKeon/Diegnan, Sarlo) - Establishes "Resiliency and Environmental System Investment Charge Program"

ACS for A-4794/S-3224 (Benson, Mukherji/Singleton, Turner) - Requires request for proposal to establish demonstration projects to develop electric vehicle charging depots served by distributed energy resource charging centers for certain electric vehicle use

A-4814/S-1023 (Moen, Wimberly/Singleton, Gopal) - Removes expected family contribution from calculation of financial need under circumstances in which public institutions or higher education may reduce student's institutional financial aid

ACS for A-4821 and 4823wGR/S-3283 (Karabinchak, Conaway, Schaer/Greenstein, Zwicker) - Directs DEP to take certain actions concerning identification and testing of microplastics in drinking water, and requires DEP and BPU to study and promote use of microplastics removal technologies

A-4955/S-3531 (S. Kean, Thomson/Singer, Gopal) - Designates portion of State Highway Route 71 as "John Tarantino Highway"

A-5094/S-3476 (Spearman/Beach, Greenstein) - Concerns licensing of security officer companies

A-5227/S-3662 (Danielsen, Space/Smith, Oroho) - Expands eligibility for "fishing buddy license" fee

A-5285/SCS for S-3708 (Greenwald, Haider, Lopez/Greenstein, A.M. Bucco) - Requires copies of certain law enforcement records to be provided to victims of domestic violence upon request

A-5293/S-3746 (Greenwald, McKnight, Rooney/Gopal, Ruiz) - Concerns New Jersey Civic Information Consortium

A-5311/S-3061 (Verrelli, McKnight, Matsikoudis/Stanfield, Turner) - Enters New Jersey into Counseling Compact

A-5391/S-3765 (DeAngelo/Diegnan, Corrado) - Imposes conditions on drivers approaching disabled vehicles

A-5412/S-3850 (Greenwald, Swain, Jasey/Gopal, Singer) - Establishes nonpublic school transportation program to provide funding to consortiums of nonpublic schools that will assume responsibility for mandated nonpublic school busing

A-5416wGR/S-3883 (Wimberly, Giblin, Haider/Greenstein, Turner) - Requires State Board of Education to authorize alternate route to expedite teacher certification of persons employed as paraprofessionals in school districts

A-5442/S-3793 (Karabinchak, Conaway, McKeon/Smith, Greenstein) - Directs BPU to conduct study to determine feasibility, marketability, and costs of implementing large-scale geothermal heat pump systems in State

A-5462/S-3867 (Coughlin, McKnight, Speight/Vitale, Turner) - Revises law establishing Office of Food Security Advocate, and establishes certain conditions for use of monies appropriated to emergency food organizations

ACS for A-5495/SCS for S-3846 (Danielsen/Scutari, A.M. Bucco) - Clarifies types of firearms allowed to be carried or transported while hunting

A-5516/S-4047 (Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli, Conaway/Burgess, Turner) - Requires certain health care professionals to undergo bias training

A-5565/S-3971 (S. Kean, Thomson/Gopal) - Provides that 10-year term does not apply to lease of certain municipal properties unless they are waterfront properties or related to waterfront concessions

A-5567/S-3807 (Torrissi, Calabrese/A.M. Bucco, Sarlo) - Extends period of usefulness of fire engines for bonding purposes from 10 to 20 years; eliminates exclusion of passenger cars and station wagons

A-5582/S-3781 (Swain, Simonsen/Lagana, Cryan) - Establishes grant program for NJ YouthBuild programs through DOLWD; makes appropriation

A-5610wGR/S-3954 (Greenwald, Spearman, Chaparro/Beach, A.M. Bucco) - Revises penalties for possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by underage persons

A-5748/S-4166 (Spearman, Moen, Moriarty/Cruz-Perez, Madden) - Amends definition of "participating county" under County Option Hospital Fee Program

A-5755/S-4183 (Carter, Sumter, Wimberly, Quijano/Scutari, Singleton) - Enhances notice requirements and occupancy restrictions for hotels and multiple dwellings following determination of potentially hazardous condition

A-5799/S-1472 (Moen, Moriarty/Beach, Stack) - Authorizes DOT to establish and administer toll collection and enforcement system on behalf of NJ toll authorities and to enter into reciprocal agreements for enforcement of toll violations with toll authorities from other states

A-5806/S-4165 (Moriarty, Sauickie/Greenstein, Oroho) - Appropriates \$48 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to DEP for State acquisition of lands for recreational and conservation purposes, including Blue Acres projects, and Green Acres Program administrative costs

A-5807/S-4138 (Freiman/Johnson, Schepisi) - Appropriates \$58 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for recreation and conservation purposes to DEP for State capital and park development projects

A-5808/S-4135 (Park, Freiman, Lopez/Beach, Turner) - Appropriates \$15,564,293 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to NJ Historic Trust for grants for certain historic preservation projects and associated administrative expenses

A-5809/S-4097 (Swain, Lopez, Sauickie/Zwicker, Gopal) - Amends lists of projects eligible to receive loans for environmental infrastructure projects from NJ Infrastructure Bank FY 2024

A-5810/S-4098 (Sampson, Sauickie, Lopez/Greenstein, Stanfield) - Amends lists of environmental infrastructure projects approved for long-term funding by DEP under FY 2024 environmental infrastructure funding program

A-5828/S-4201 (Lopez/Vitale) - Authorizes State Treasurer to sell as surplus certain real property and improvements in Township of Woodbridge in Middlesex County

A-5835/S-4134 (Greenwald, Lampitt/Beach, Turner) - Authorizes regional authority to develop and operate regional rehabilitation and reentry center

A-5836/S-4212 (DeAngelo, Sumter, Wimberly/Gopal, Greenstein) - Makes supplemental appropriation of \$650,000 to New Jersey Division of State Police for trooper recruitment retention

A-5910/S-4266 (Egan/Codey) - Increases annual salary of certain public employees and officers

AJR-200/SJR-138 (Park, Freiman, Calabrese/Lagana) - Designates November 22 of each year as Kimchi Day

Governor Murphy pocket vetoed the following bills:

S-2989/A-1739 (Pou, Singer/McKeon, Quijano, Flynn) - Makes certain for-profit debt adjusters eligible for licensing to conduct business in State

S-3172/A-4689 (Gopal, Turner/Lampitt, Matsikoudis, McKnight) - Establishes teacher certification route for candidates with Montessori teaching credentials

S-3287/ACS for A-4852 and 1170 (Turner/Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey, Dunn, Wimberly, Calabrese, Spearman, Verrilli) - Requires institutions of higher education to maintain support policy governing use of naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for opioid overdose emergencies

A-1476/S-930 (Benson, Dancer/Holzappel, Diegnan) - Exempts certain motor vehicles that are owned by certain nutrition programs and certain nonprofit organizations that offer social services from motor vehicle registration fees

A-3642/S-665 (Wirhiths, Murphy, Benson, Oroho/Greenstein) - Requires MVC to place designation on motor vehicle's registration information indicating registrant is deaf

A-3945/S-1660 (Quijano, Reynolds-Jackson, Carter/Ruiz, Singleton) - Establishes "Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot Program"; appropriates \$95,000

A-4177/S-2478 (Mosquera, Swain, McKnight, Tucker, Dunn/Ruiz, Vitale) - Extends duration of law requiring certain provider subsidy payments for child care services be based on enrollment

A-4396/S-2927 (Lampitt, Jasey, Caputo/Codey) - Establishes timelines for review and approval by Commissioner of Education of annual certified audits submitted by approved private schools for students with disabilities

A-4621/S-3156 (Mosquera, Greenwald, Swain/Madden) - Requires issuance of report on certain information and data on processing of applications for professional and occupational licenses and mandates review of training and call intake in Division of Consumer Affairs.

A-4740/S-2970 (Mukherji, DeAngelo, McKnight/Cruz-Perez, Turner) - Provides employee access to employee's employment records on file with DOLWD

A-5294/S-1825 (Greenwald, Swain, Rooney/Steinhardt, Sarlo, Doherty) - Exempts sales of investment metal bullion and investment coins from sales and use tax

A-5893/S-4228 (Karabinchak, Calabrese, Sauickie/Gopal, Sarlo) - Extends annual horse racing purse subsidies through State fiscal year 2029