

HOUSE No. 2815

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Antonio F. D. Cabral

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to improving public safety in excavation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>William L. Crocker, Jr.</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>Daniel R. Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>

HOUSE No. 2815

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2815) of Antonio F. D. Cabral and others relative to improving public safety in excavation and "dig safe" training. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to improving public safety in excavation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40 of Chapter 82 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2016
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following terms therein:-

3 "Marking standards", the methods by which a company designates its facilities in
4 accordance with standards established by the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) and the
5 American Public Works Association.

6 "Non-mechanical means", shall mean excavation using any device or tool manipulated by
7 human power, including air vacuum, air blowing or similar methods of excavation designed to
8 minimize direct contact with utilities.

9 SECTION 2. Section 40 of Chapter 82 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2016
10 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting in line 5, after the words "cable television
11 company, and", the following words:- "municipal traffic signal departments"

12 SECTION 3. Section 40 of Chapter 82 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2016
13 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following terms therein:-

14 "Professional Land Surveyor", shall have the same definition as set forth in chapter 112,
15 §81D.

16 SECTION 4. Section 40A of Chapter 82 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2016
17 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following
18 paragraph:-

19 "Any Professional Land Surveyor working on a preliminary design for a new facility or
20 renovation where excavation shall be necessary shall premark the proposed excavation and give
21 initial notice to the system."

22 SECTION 5. Section 40B of Chapter 82 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2016
23 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words "the excavator" the following
24 words:- "or Professional Land Surveyor"

25 SECTION 6. Section 40B of Chapter 82 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2016
26 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following sentences at the end thereof:-

27 "At a minimum, all markings shall indicate, where practicable, the width if it is greater
28 than two inches, the material of the underground facility, the existence of multiple ducts, as well
29 as any change in direction and any terminus points of the facility. In circumstances where the
30 total number of lines buried in the same trench may not be readily known, a corridor marker may
31 be used.

32 A company shall conduct periodic audits to ensure the accuracy of the locating and
33 marking of facilities as well as its adherence to marking standards.”

34 SECTION 7. Section 40E of Chapter 82 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2016
35 Official Edition, is amended by inserting the following sentence at the end thereof:

36 “The department of public utilities may require any person or company who does not
37 comply with the provisions of sections 40A to 40E to complete a "Dig Safe" training program in
38 lieu of a fine for a first offense.”