

House Study Bill 10 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON CARLSON)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the definition of utility maintenance
2 vehicle.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.1, Code 2017, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 89A. "*Utility maintenance vehicle*" means
4 a motor vehicle operated by an employee or contractor of an
5 entity, including but not limited to the state, a political
6 subdivision of the state, or any commission, department, or
7 agency thereof, an electric cooperative association, or a
8 public or private corporation, in connection with the provision
9 of utility services.

10 NEW SUBSECTION. 89B. "*Utility services*" means cable,
11 electric, natural gas, telephone, telecommunication, water, and
12 wastewater treatment services and includes the improvement,
13 installation, maintenance, relocation, or repair of cables,
14 fibers, pipes, utility poles, utility structures, wires, and
15 associated right-of-way and other infrastructure associated
16 with such services.

17 EXPLANATION

18 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
19 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

20 Under Code section 321.323A, the driver of a motor vehicle
21 approaching a stationary utility maintenance vehicle displaying
22 flashing lights must approach the utility maintenance vehicle
23 with due caution and make a lane change into a lane not
24 adjacent to the utility maintenance vehicle, or if a lane
25 change is impossible, prohibited by law, or unsafe, the driver
26 must reduce the speed of the motor vehicle to a reasonable and
27 proper speed for the existing road and traffic conditions and
28 be prepared to stop. Under Code section 321.423, a utility
29 maintenance vehicle is permitted to display flashing amber
30 lights. "Utility maintenance vehicle" is not defined in the
31 Code.

32 This bill defines "utility maintenance vehicle" to mean
33 a motor vehicle operated by an employee or contractor of an
34 entity, including but not limited to the state, a political
35 subdivision of the state, or any commission, department,

1 or agency thereof, an electric cooperative association,
2 or a public or private corporation, in connection with the
3 provision of utility services. The bill defines "utility
4 services" to mean cable, electric, natural gas, telephone,
5 telecommunication, water, and wastewater treatment services
6 and to include the improvement, installation, maintenance,
7 relocation, or repair of cables, fibers, pipes, utility poles,
8 utility structures, wires, and associated right-of-way and
9 other infrastructure associated with such services.