
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 269 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY VOGEL, BARTOLOTTA, STREET, KANE, MARTIN, SCHWANK,
BREWSTER AND COSTA, APRIL 22, 2024

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 22, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2024 as "Safe Digging Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania 811 is a utility notification
4 information center with 52 years of continuous service to this
5 Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, The mission of Pennsylvania 811 is to prevent damage
7 to underground facilities and to promote safety by providing an
8 efficient and effective communications network among project
9 owners, designers, excavators and facility owners; and

10 WHEREAS, "Safe Digging Month" is an initiative sponsored by
11 Pennsylvania 811; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2023, Pennsylvania 811 received more than 1
13 million excavation notifications and transmitted approximately 6
14 million notifications to member facility owners and operators,
15 allowing essential utility and construction crews to provide
16 vital underground services and repair of critical infrastructure
17 to communities throughout this Commonwealth; and

18 WHEREAS, Safe digging is a shared responsibility among

1 excavators, homeowners and facility owners; and

2 WHEREAS, "Safe Digging Month" is a reminder for a homeowner
3 or contractor to contact Pennsylvania 811 three business days
4 before digging, so that the homeowner or contractor can be
5 connected with a unique service that notifies the appropriate
6 underground utility operators in the municipality in which the
7 work will be performed, to determine and mark the approximate
8 location of utility lines, as a way of preventing injuries,
9 property damage and inconvenient utility outages; and

10 WHEREAS, By notifying Pennsylvania 811 of the intent to dig,
11 the homeowner or contractor is knowingly helping to protect the
12 underground utilities themselves, the work crew and neighbors
13 from any unsafe digging practices within the community; and

14 WHEREAS, Upon receiving the notification from Pennsylvania
15 811, the facility owners and operators mark the approximate
16 location of their underground utility lines with flags or paint,
17 or both, to establish an 18-inch tolerance zone extending from
18 the outside wall or edge of their line or facility; and

19 WHEREAS, The act of December 10, 1974 (P.L.852, No.287),
20 referred to as the Underground Utility Line Protection Law,
21 protects the public health and safety by preventing excavation
22 or demolition work from damaging underground lines used in
23 providing electricity, communication, gas, propane, oil
24 delivery, oil product delivery, sewage, water or other service;
25 therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2024
27 as "Safe Digging Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all Pennsylvanians to
29 visit the Pennsylvania 811 website at www.palcall.org for
30 information about digging safely.