

SENATE BILL No. 206

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 8-1-26-1.

Synopsis: Protection of underground facilities. Provides that the following are exempt from the law governing demolitions and excavations in the area of underground facilities: (1) Excavation that is performed: (A) only with a hand tool; (B) by a communications service provider; and (C) to a depth not greater than 12 inches; for the purpose of connecting a communications service customer's home or business to the communications service provider's own communications network. (2) Excavation performed using only high pressure air. (3) Excavation performed solely by: (A) injecting water into soil; and (B) removing the resulting mixture of soil and water with a vacuum.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Byrne

January 8, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Utilities.



Introduced

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 206

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning utilities.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 8-1-26-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.62-2009,
2 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1. (a) Except as provided by this section, this
4 chapter does not apply to the following:

5 (1) Excavation that is performed:
6 (A) only with a hand tool;
7 (B) on property owned or controlled by the person performing
8 the excavation; and
9 (C) to a depth not greater than twelve (12) inches.
10 (2) Excavation using only animals.
11 (3) Tilling of soil for agricultural purposes, such as plowing,
12 planting, and combining.
13 (4) Surface coal mining and reclamation operations conducted
14 under a permit issued by the natural resources commission under
15 IC 14-34.
16 (5) Railroad right-of-way maintenance or operations.
17 (6) Underground probing to determine the extent of gas



1 migration.

2 **(7) Excavation that is performed:**

3 **(A) only with a hand tool;**

4 **(B) by a communications service provider; and**

5 **(C) to a depth not greater than twelve (12) inches;**

6 **for the purpose of connecting a communications service**
7 **customer's home or business to the communications service**
8 **provider's own communications network.**

9 **(8) Excavation performed using only a directed stream of high**
10 **pressure air.**

11 **(9) Excavation performed solely by:**

12 **(A) injecting water into soil to create a mixture of water**
13 **and soil; and**

14 **(B) removing the mixture of water and soil using a**
15 **vacuum.**

16 (b) This chapter does apply to blasting, setting drainage tile,
17 subsoiling, and other subsurface activities.

18 (c) Sections 16, 19, 20, and 22 of this chapter apply to the
19 construction and installation of railroad signal facilities and drainage
20 facilities at public grade crossings.

