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1	DAMAGE TO UNDERGROUND UTILITY	
2	FACILITIES AMENDMENTS	
3	2008 GENERAL SESSION	
4	STATE OF UTAH	
5	Chief Sponsor: David Clark	
6	Senate Sponsor: Sheldon L. Killpack	
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10	This bill addresses liability provisions and other provisions concerning the location of an	
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14	defines terms;	
15	 requires certain information be provided concerning an operators' association; 	
16	 provides warning language that may be included with a building permit; 	
17	 addresses requirements for and effects of a notice of excavation; 	
18 • describes an underground facility that need not be marked;		
19	 outlines a method for determining the precise location of a marked underground 	
20	utility facility;	
21	requires an excavator to call 911 if certain damage occurs;	
22	provides a civil penalty for a violation of the chapter;	
23	provides for enforcement by the attorney general;	
24	► limits the period for which an operators' association must maintain a record of	
25	notices of excavation;	
26	 addresses the installation of a nonmetallic underground facility; 	
27	 creates the Underground Facilities Damage Dispute Board to arbitrate disputes 	
28	arising under the chapter; and	
29	makes technical changes.	

)	Monies Appropriated in this Bill:	
[None	
2	Other Special Clauses:	
3	None	
ļ	Utah Code Sections Affected:	
Ó	AMENDS:	
)	54-8a-2, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1998, Chapter 198	
	54-8a-3, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1993, Chapter 87	
	54-8a-4, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2001, Chapter 189	
)	54-8a-5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1998, Chapter 198	
)	54-8a-5.5 , as enacted by Laws of Utah 1996, Chapter 203	
	54-8a-6, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1998, Chapter 198	
,	54-8a-7, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2001, Chapter 189	
	54-8a-9, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1993, Chapter 87	
	54-8a-10, as last amended by Laws of Utah 1993, Chapter 87	
	ENACTS:	
)	54-8a-3.5 , Utah Code Annotated 1953	
	54-8a-12, Utah Code Annotated 1953	
	54-8a-13, Utah Code Annotated 1953	
)	REPEALS AND REENACTS:	
	54-8a-8, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2001, Chapter 189	
	REPEALS:	
	54-8a-8.5, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2004, Chapter 90	
	54-13-6 , as enacted by Laws of Utah 1989, Chapter 131	
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j	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:	
:)	Section 1. Section 54-8a-2 is amended to read:	
,	54.8a.2 Definitions	

58	As used in this chapter:		
59	(1) "Association" means two or more operators organized to receive notification of		
60	excavation activities in a specified area, as provided by Section 54-8a-9.		
61	(2) "Board" means the Underground Facilities Damage Dispute Board created in		
62	Section 54-8a-13.		
63	[(2)] (3) "Emergency" means an occurrence or suspected natural gas leak necessitating		
64	immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential		
65	public services.		
66	[(3)] (4) "Excavate" or "excavation" means an operation in which earth, rock, or other		
67	material on or below the ground is moved or displaced by tools, equipment, or explosives.		
68	[(4)] (5) "Excavator" means any person or entity that excavates or conducts excavation		
69	activities.		
70	[(5)] (6) "48 hours" means a 48-hour period occurring during business days which		
71	includes any day except Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday.		
72	(7) "Hand tool" means an implement:		
73	(a) powered by hand; or		
74	(b) designed to avoid damaging an underground facility, including a vacuum excavation		
75	tool and air knife.		
76	(8) "Location" means the site of a proposed area of excavation described by:		
77	(a) (i) street address, if available; and		
78	(ii) the area at that street address to be excavated; or		
79	(b) if there is no street address available, the area of excavation using any available		
80	designations, including a nearby street or road, an intersection, GPS coordinates, or other		
81	generally accepted methods.		
82	[(6)] (9) "Location request assignment" means a number assigned to a proposed		
83	excavation by an association or operator upon receiving notice of the proposed excavation from		
84	the excavator.		
85	[(7)] (10) (a) "Operator" means a person [or entity which] who owns, operates, or		

86	maintains <u>an</u> underground [facilities] <u>facility</u> .		
87	(b) "Operator" does not include an owner of real property where underground facilities		
88	are:		
89	(i) located solely within the property;		
90	(ii) used exclusively to furnish services on the property; and		
91	(iii) maintained under the operation and control of that owner.		
92	[(8)] (11) "Person" includes [individuals, government entities, corporations,		
93	partnerships, associations, and companies and their trustees, receivers, assignees, and persona		
94	representatives.]:		
95	(a) an individual, government entity, corporation, partnership, association, or company		
96	<u>and</u>		
97	(b) the trustee, receiver, assignee, and personal representative of a person listed in		
98	Subsection (11)(a).		
99	(12) "24 hours" means a 24-hour period, excluding hours occurring during a Saturday,		
100	Sunday, or a legal holiday.		
101	[(9)] (13) "Underground facility" means personal property that is buried or placed		
102	below ground level for use in the storage or conveyance of any of the following:		
103	(a) water;		
104	(b) sewage;		
105	(c) communications, including electronic, photonic, telephonic, or telegraphic		
106	communications;		
107	(d) television, cable television, or other telecommunication signals, including		
108	transmission to subscribers of video or other programming;		
109	(e) electric power;		
110	(f) oil, gas, or other fluid and gaseous substances;		
111	(g) steam;		
112	(h) slurry; or		
113	(i) dangerous materials or products.		

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114	Section 2. Section 54-8a-3 is amended to read:	
115	54-8a-3. Information filed with county clerk.	
116	(1) An operator shall file with the county clerk of a county in which the operator has <u>an</u>	
117	underground [facilities] facility the following:	
118	(a) the name of each municipality, city, or town in which the operator has <u>an</u>	
119	underground [facilities] facility within that county;	
120	(b) the operator's name; [and]	
121	(c) the title, telephone number, and address of the operator's representative designated	
122	to receive calls regarding excavation[:]; and	
123	(d) a statement concerning whether the operator is a member of an association and, if	
124	24 the operator is a member of an association, the name of and contact information for the	
125	5 <u>association.</u>	
126	(2) In [counties] a county where an association is established, the association shall file	
127	its telephone number and a list of its members who are operators with the county clerk on behalf	
128	of [all] any participating [operators] operator.	
129	Section 3. Section 54-8a-3.5 is enacted to read:	
130	54-8a-3.5. Excavation-related information included with construction and	
131	building permit.	
132	An entity issuing a permit for building or construction that may require excavation may,	
133	and is encouraged to, include a notice on or with a permit stating, "Attention, Utah law requires	
134	any excavator to notify the owner of underground facilities 48 hours before excavating and	
135	comply with Utah Code Title 54, Chapter 8a, Damage to Underground Utility Facilities."	
136	Section 4. Section 54-8a-4 is amended to read:	
137	54-8a-4. Notice of excavation.	

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(1) (a) Before excavating, an excavator shall notify each operator with an underground

[facilities] facility in the area of the proposed excavation.

(i) if there is an emergency;

(b) The requirements of Subsection (1)(a) do not apply:

142	(ii) while gardening; or
143	(iii) while tilling private ground.
144	(2) The notice required by Subsection (1) shall:
145	(a) be given:
146	(i) by telephone;
147	(ii) in person; or
148	(iii) by other means acceptable to each operator;
149	(b) be given not:
150	(i) less than 48 hours before excavation begins; or
151	(ii) more than [seven] 14 days before excavation begins; and
152	(c) include the proposed excavation's anticipated:
153	(i) location, with reasonable specificity;
154	(ii) dimensions;
155	(iii) type; and
156	(iv) duration.
157	(3) If the proposed excavation's anticipated location and dimensions cannot be
158	described as required under Subsection (2)(c), an excavator shall [mark] outline the proposed
159	excavation site in white paint, stakes, flags, or other industry-accepted manner.
160	(4) If more than one excavator will operate at the same excavation site, each excavator
161	shall provide the notice required by this section.
162	[(4)] (5) If there is an association in the county, notice to that association constitutes
163	notice to each operator [in the county] that has facilities within the proposed excavation site.
164	[(5) If an excavation on a single project lasts more than 14 days, the excavator shall
165	give notice at least once each additional 14-day period.]
166	(6) (a) Notice given under this section is valid for 14 days from the day on which the
167	notice is given.
168	(b) If an excavation will continue beyond the 14-day period under Subsection (6)(a), the
169	excavator shall provide notice of that fact at least 48 hours before expiration of the 14-day

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170	period.
171	(c) A notice under Subsection (6)(b) is valid for 14 days from the day on which the
172	previous notice expires.
173	(d) An excavator shall give notice as provided in this Subsection (6) for the duration of
174	the excavation.
175	[(6)] (7) If markings made by the operator have been disturbed so that the markings no
176	longer identify the underground [facilities] facility:
177	(a) before excavating the site an excavator shall notify:
178	(i) the association; or
179	(ii) each operator; and
180	(b) the operator shall mark the area again within 48 hours of the renotification.
181	[(7)] (8) An excavator may begin excavation if:
182	(a) (i) all underground facilities have been:
183	(A) located; and
184	(B) marked; or
185	(ii) the operators have indicated that there are no underground facilities within the
186	proposed excavation site;
187	(b) (i) 48 hours have elapsed from the time of initial notice; and
188	(ii) the excavator has not:
189	(A) been notified by the operator; or
190	(B) received a request for a meeting under Subsection 54-8a-5(2); or
191	(c) 48 hours have elapsed from the time of renotification under Subsection (6).
192	[8] (9) Unless an operator remarks an area pursuant to Subsection $[6]$ (7), the
193	excavator shall be responsible for the costs incurred by an operator to remark its underground
194	facilities following the second or subsequent notice given by an excavator for a proposed
195	excavation [designated by the same location request assignment].
196	Section 5. Section 54-8a-5 is amended to read:

54-8a-5. Marking of underground facilities.

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198	(1) (a) Within 48 hours of the receipt of the notice required by Section 54-8a-4, the	
199	operator shall:	
200	(i) mark the location of its underground facilities in the area of the proposed excavation	
201	or	
202	(ii) notify the excavator, by telephonic or electronic message or indication at the	
203	excavation site, that the operator does not have any underground [facilities] facility in the area	
204	of the proposed excavation.	
205	(b) The underground [facilities] facility shall be marked with stakes, paint, or in some	
206	other customary way, indicating, at the option of the operator, either:	
207	(i) the approximate centerline of the underground facility; or	
208	(ii) the approximate outside dimensions of both sides of the underground facility.	
209	(2) (a) The operator is not required to mark the underground facilities within 48 hours	
210	if:	
211	(i) the proposed excavation:	
212	(A) is not [clearly described by a street address or description and] identified in	
213	accordance with Subsection 54-8a-4(2) or is not marked as provided in Subsection 54-8a-4(3);	
214	(B) is located in a remote area;	
215	(C) is an extensive excavation; or	
216	(D) presents other constraints that make it unreasonably difficult for the operator to	
217	comply with the marking requirements of this section; or	
218	(ii) the operator is not able to readily locate the underground facilities from the surface	
219	with standard underground detection devices.	
220	(b) If the operator cannot proceed with the marking because of a situation described in	
221	Subsection (2)(a), the operator shall contact the excavator within 48 hours after the excavator's	
222	notice of excavation or request for a location request assignment made in accordance with	
223	Section 54-8a-4 and request a meeting at the proposed excavation site or some other mutually	
224	agreed upon location.	
225	(c) For [the situations] a situation described under [Subsections] Subsection	

(2)(a)(i)[(A) and (2)(a)(i)(B), the meeting will constitute the beginning of a new 48-hour period
within which the operator must mark the underground facilities. (d) For the situations described
under Subsections (2)(a)(i)(C) and (2)(a)(i)(D)], the meeting [will constitute] constitutes the
beginning of a new 48-hour period within which the operator must begin marking the
underground facilities.
[(e)] (d) (i) For the situation described under Subsection (2)(a)(ii), the excavator and
operator shall agree on a plan of excavation designed to prevent damage to the operator's
underground [facilities] facility.
(ii) Notwithstanding the agreement, the excavator shall proceed in a manner that is
reasonably calculated to avoid damage to the underground [facilities] facility.
(e) (i) An operator need not mark or locate an underground facility the operator does
not own.
(ii) An underground facility under Subsection (2)(e)(i) includes a water or sewer lateral
or a facility running from a house to a garage or outbuilding.
(f) (i) An operator may mark the location of a known facility connected to the
operator's facilities that is not owned or operated by the operator.
(ii) Marking a known facility under Subsection (2)(f)(i) imposes no liability on the
operator for the accuracy of the marking.
(3) The markings required by this section shall conform [to the following color code for
each type of installation:] with marking standards established by the American Public Works
Association for temporary markings.
[(a) safety red - electric power;]
[(b) safety yellow - gas, oil, a dangerous material or product, or steam;]
[(c) safety orange - communications or cable television;]
[(d) safety blue - water or slurry; and]
[(e) safety green - sewer.]
(4) Each marking is valid for not more than 14 calendar days from the date notice is
given.

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254	(5) If multiple lines exist:
255	(a) the markings must indicate the number of lines; or
256	(b) all lines must be marked.
257	Section 6. Section 54-8a-5.5 is amended to read:
258	54-8a-5.5. Determining the precise location of marked underground facilities.
259	(1) (a) An excavator may not use any power-operated or power-driven excavating or
260	boring equipment within 24 inches of the markings made in accordance with Section 54-8a-5
261	[before] unless the excavator [has determined] determines the exact location of the underground
262	[facilities] facility by excavating with hand tools to confirm that the excavation will not damage
263	the underground facilities.
264	(b) An operator may waive, in writing or electronically, the requirement that the
265	excavator determine the exact location of the underground facilities by excavating with hand
266	tools.
267	(2) Power-operated or power-driven excavating or boring equipment may be used for
268	the removal of any existing pavement if there [are] is no underground [facilities] facility
269	contained in the pavement, as marked by the operator.
270	(3) The excavator may use power-operated or power-driven excavating or boring
271	equipment within 24 inches of the markings only:
272	(a) to a depth agreed upon by the operator; and
273	(b) if allowed by the operator.
274	Section 7. Section 54-8a-6 is amended to read:
275	54-8a-6. Duties and liabilities of an excavator.
276	(1) Damage to an underground facility by an excavator who excavates but fails to
277	comply with Section 54-8a-4, is prima facie evidence that the excavator is liable for any damage
278	caused by the negligence of that excavator.
279	(2) (a) An excavator is not liable for [damage to an underground facility] a civil penalty
280	under this chapter if [he or she] the excavator has:

(i) given proper notice of the proposed excavation as required in this chapter;

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282	(ii) marked the area of the proposed excavation as required in Section 54-8a-4;
283	(iii) complied with Section 54-8a-5.5; and
284	(iv) complied with Section 54-8a-7.
285	(b) An excavator is [not] liable for damage [to an underground facility if an operator
286	has failed to comply with Section 54-8a-5 or 54-8a-9.] incurred by an operator if:
287	(i) the operator complies with Section 54-8a-5; and
288	(ii) the damage occurs within 24 inches of the operator's markings.
289	Section 8. Section 54-8a-7 is amended to read:
290	54-8a-7. Notice of damage Repairs.
291	(1) If an excavator contacts or damages an underground facility, the excavator shall:
292	(a) immediately notify the appropriate operator and then proceed in a manner that is
293	reasonably calculated to avoid further damage to the underground facility[:]; and
294	(b) immediately call 911 if the excavation may result in an immediate risk to human life.
295	(2) Upon receipt of notice, the operator shall immediately examine the underground
296	facility, and, if necessary, make repairs.
297	Section 9. Section 54-8a-8 is repealed and reenacted to read:
298	54-8a-8. Civil penalty for damage Exceptions Other remedies.
299	(1) A civil penalty may be imposed for a violation of this chapter as provided in this
300	section.
301	(2) A civil penalty under this section may be imposed on:
302	(a) any person who violates this chapter in an amount no greater than \$2,500 for each
303	violation with a maximum civil penalty of \$100,000 per excavation; or
304	(b) an excavator who fails to provide notice of an excavation in accordance with
305	Section 54-8a-4 in an amount no greater than \$500 in addition to the amount under Subsection
306	<u>(2)(a).</u>
307	(3) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a), a penalty under this chapter may not be imposed
308	on an excavator or operator unless the excavator or operator fails to comply with this chapter
309	and damages an underground facility.

310	(4) The amount of a civil penalty under this section shall be made taking into
311	consideration the following:
312	(a) the excavator's or operator's history of any prior violation or penalty;
313	(b) the seriousness of the violation;
314	(c) any discharge or pollution resulting from the damage;
315	(d) the hazard to the health or safety of the public;
316	(e) the degree of culpability and willfulness of the violation;
317	(f) any good faith of the excavator or operator; and
318	(g) any other factor considered relevant, including the number of past excavations
319	conducted by the excavator, the number of location requests made by the excavator and the
320	number of location markings made for the excavator or by the operator.
321	(5) "Good faith," as used in Subsection (4)(f) includes actions taken before the filing of
322	an action for civil penalty under this section to:
323	(a) remedy, in whole or in part, a violation of this chapter; or
324	(b) mitigate the consequences and damages resulting from a violation of this chapter.
325	(6) (a) A civil penalty may not be imposed on an excavator if the damage to an
326	underground facility results from an operator's:
327	(i) failure to mark; or
328	(ii) inaccurate marking or locating of the operator's underground facilities.
329	(b) In addition to or in lieu of part of or all of a civil penalty, the excavator or operator
330	may be required to undertake actions that are designed to prevent future violations of this
331	chapter, including attending safety and compliance training, improving internal monitoring and
332	compliance processes and procedures, or any other action that may result in compliance with
333	this chapter.
334	(7) Subsection (1) does not apply to an excavation made:
335	(a) during an emergency, if reasonable precautions are taken to protect any
336	underground facility;
337	(b) in agricultural operations;

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338	(c) for the purpose of finding or extracting natural resources; or
339	(d) with hand tools on property owned or occupied by the excavator.
340	(8) (a) A civil penalty under this section is in addition to any damages that an operator
341	or an excavator may seek to recover.
342	(b) In an action brought under this section, the prevailing party shall be awarded its
343	costs and attorney fees as determined by the court.
344	Section 10. Section 54-8a-9 is amended to read:
345	54-8a-9. Association for mutual receipt of notice of excavation activities.
346	(1) (a) (i) Two or more operators may form and operate a statewide association
347	providing for mutual receipt of notice of excavation activities.
348	(ii) If an association is operational, notice to the association shall be given pursuant to
349	Section 54-8a-4.
350	(b) (i) If an association is formed, each operator with <u>an</u> underground [facilities] <u>facility</u>
351	in the area shall become a member of the association [or] and participate in it to:
352	(A) receive a notice of a proposed excavation submitted to the association;
353	(B) receive the services furnished by it; and
354	(C) pay its share of the cost for the service furnished.
355	(ii) If an operator does not comply with Subsection (1)(b)(i) and Section 54-8a-5, [he]
356	the operator is liable for damages incurred by an excavator who [has complied] complies with
357	[the] this chapter's requirements [under this chapter].
358	(c) An association whose members or participants have underground facilities within a
359	county shall:
360	(i) file a description of the geographical area served by the association; and

after receiving notice from the person who proposes to excavate; and

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county clerk.

(ii) file the name and address of every member and participating operator with the

(2) An association receiving notice as provided in Subsection 54-8a-4(1) shall:

366	(b) maintain a record of [notices] any notice received for a period of five years to
367	document compliance with the requirements of this chapter.
368	Section 11. Section 54-8a-10 is amended to read:
369	54-8a-10. Installation of nonmetallic facilities.
370	Any operator [utilizing a fiberoptic or other] installing a nonmetallic facility, such as a
371	sewer, water, or fiber optic line, shall install the [fiberoptic or other] nonmetallic facility so that
372	it can be located with standard underground facility detection devices or in a concrete conduit
373	system.
374	Section 12. Section 54-8a-12 is enacted to read:
375	54-8a-12. Enforcement Attorney general.
376	(1) (a) The attorney general may bring an action in the district court located in the
377	county in which the excavation is located to enforce this chapter.
378	(b) The right of any person to bring a civil action for damage arising from an
379	excavator's or operator's actions or conduct relating to underground facilities is not affected by:
380	(i) a proceeding commenced by the attorney general under this chapter; or
381	(ii) the imposition of a civil penalty under this chapter.
382	(c) If the attorney general does not bring an action under Subsection (1)(a), the
383	operator or excavator may pursue any remedy, including a civil penalty.
384	(2) Any civil penalty imposed and collected under this chapter shall be deposited into
385	the General Fund.
386	Section 13. Section 54-8a-13 is enacted to read:
387	54-8a-13. Underground Facilities Damage Dispute Board Arbitration
388	Relationship with Public Service Commission.
389	(1) There is created within the commission the Underground Facilities Damage Dispute
390	Board to arbitrate a dispute arising from:
391	(a) an operator's or excavator's violation of this chapter; and
392	(b) damage caused by excavation during an emergency.
393	(2) The board consists of five members appointed by the governor as follows:

394	(a) one member from a list of names provided to the governor by a group representing
395	operators;
396	(b) one member from a list of names provided to the governor by the Associated
397	General Contractors;
398	(c) one member from a list of names provided to the governor by Blue Stakes of Utah;
399	(d) one member from a list of names provided to the governor by the Utah Home
400	Builders Association; and
401	(e) one member from the Division of Public Utilities.
402	(3) (a) A member of the board:
403	(i) shall be appointed for a three-year term; and
404	(ii) may continue to serve until the member's successor takes office.
405	(b) At the time of appointment, the governor shall stagger the terms of the members to
406	ensure that approximately 1/3 of the members of the board are reappointed each year.
407	(c) A vacancy in the board shall be filled:
408	(i) for the unexpired term; and
409	(ii) in the same manner as the board member is initially appointed.
410	(d) The board shall select an alternate for a specific board member to serve on a specific
411	case if it becomes necessary to replace a member who has a conflict of interest because a
412	dispute involves that member or that member's employer.
413	(4) Three members of the board constitute a quorum.
414	(5) The board may, upon agreement of the disputing parties, arbitrate a dispute
415	regarding damages, not including personal injury damages, arising between:
416	(a) an operator;
417	(b) an excavator;
418	(c) a property owner; or
419	(d) any other interested party.
420	(6) At least four members of the board shall be present and vote on an arbitration
421	decision.

422	(7) An arbitration before the board shall be consistent with Title 78, Chapter 31a, Utah
423	Uniform Arbitration Act.
424	(8) The prevailing party in an arbitration conducted under this section shall be awarded
425	its costs and attorney fees in an amount determined by the board.
426	(9) (a) A member of the board who is not a state officer or employee or local
427	government officer or employee shall receive no compensation or benefits for the member's
428	service, but may receive per diem and expenses incurred in the performance of the member's
429	duties at the rates established by the Division of Finance under Sections 63A-3-106 and
430	63A-3-107. Members may decline to receive per diem and expenses for their services.
431	(b) A state officer or employee or local government officer or employee member of the
432	board who does not receive salary, per diem, or expenses from their agency or employer for
433	their service on the board may receive per diem and expenses incurred in the performance of the
434	member's duties at the rates established by the Division of Finance under Sections 63A-3-106
435	and 63A-3-107. State and local government officer or employee members may decline to
436	receive per diem and expenses for their services.
437	(10) The commission shall provide administrative support to the board.
438	Section 14. Repealer.
439	This bill repeals:
440	Section 54-8a-8.5, Alternative dispute resolution.
441	Section 54-13-6, Violation of chapter Penalty.