

Sample Local Impact Statement

2015 Bill Number: HB391 (Ingram) & SB 896 (Brandes)

Issue: Relocation of Utilities

What the legislation does: Prohibits local governments from requiring utilities to pay the costs of equipment relocation unless the utilities are in a “right of way,” as opposed to the current requirement for utility relocations occurring “upon, over, under or along” a roadway. The bills require local governments, and not the utilities, to bear the cost of relocating a utility’s equipment if such equipment is located within a utility easement, regardless of the private or public nature of the easement. In addition, the bills prohibit a municipality or county from requiring a provider of communication services to resubmit information proprietary maps already in the possession of, or previously provided to, the municipality or county.

Who would be affected: This proposed legislation would shift the cost of doing business from for-profit utility companies to the taxpayers in the city of _____. These taxpayers include:

- 20,000 hard working families with a median income of \$55,000 or less
- 20,000 senior citizens living on a fixed income
- 10,000 veterans
- 200 small businesses with 10 or fewer employees

How they will be affected and how many will be affected: The city of _____ prides itself on consistently having one of the lowest millage rates in _____ County at _____. Our residents as defined above, have repeatedly made it very clear one of the primary reasons they enjoy living in our city is because we continue to exercise fiscal restraint and keep our taxes low.

However, this proposed legislation, in lieu of a tax increase, will put one of our most successful programs at risk of service reductions due to indeterminate, yet additional costs for utility relocations. Our Parks and Recreation department programs are one of the well-utilized services in our community. These programs include:

- After-school programs serving 500 children and 250 families in our community
- Summer Camp programs serving 500 children in our community
- Youth Athletic programs serving over 1,000 children from ages __ to __

The success of these programs is in part because we are able to subsidize the cost and provide these services at a very nominal and affordable fee for the participating families. These programs have also helped to reduce petty crime in our city by providing our youth with fun, healthy experiences that teach them many “life lessons”, the least of which is respect for their peers and being part of a team. Statistics provided by our law enforcement officers indicate that when these programs are unavailable, petty crime increases by 15% in our community.

How many care they will be affected: Over the past months, we have had an open dialogue with our shared constituents about this pending legislation. During these conversations, many have expressed great concerns about utility companies attempting to shift costs to them and their families. Attached to this document you will find 70 letters signed by residents of the city of _____ and district __ sharing their concerns.

What we are asking: Join us in protecting these hard-working families, seniors, small businesses and veterans by opposing this legislation should it be refiled during the 2016 legislative session.