

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 354

BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Public Service Commission to study the feasibility and potential benefits of incorporating Louisiana One Call and 811 services into a dedicated state division or office for the purpose of improving underground utility coordination, mapping, damage prevention, public safety, and infrastructure planning, and to report its findings to the legislature.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's underground infrastructure network continues to expand rapidly due to broadband deployment, water and sewer improvements, electric and gas infrastructure upgrades, and transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Underground Utilities and Facilities Damage Prevention Law, R.S. 40:1749.11 et seq., establishes requirements for notification and coordination prior to excavation activities in order to protect underground facilities and public safety; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana One Call, commonly known through the 811 system, plays a critical role in facilitating communication between excavators and utility operators to reduce damage to underground infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, increased infrastructure activity across the state has highlighted the growing importance of utility coordination, accurate locating, mapping, and enforcement efforts; and

WHEREAS, damage to underground utilities can result in disruptions to essential services, public safety risks, increased costs to taxpayers and utilities, and delays to critical infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the state may benefit from evaluating whether Louisiana One Call and related 811 coordination functions should be incorporated into a dedicated division, office, or enhanced state structure to improve oversight, coordination, data sharing, enforcement, training, and long-term planning; and

WHEREAS, a study could help identify opportunities for improved efficiency, enhanced protection of underground infrastructure, better coordination between state and local entities, and potential integration with broadband deployment and utility mapping initiatives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Public Service Commission to study the feasibility and advisability of incorporating Louisiana One Call and 811-related functions into a dedicated state division, office, or administrative structure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Service Commission shall coordinate with and receive input from the following entities to assist in the study:

- (1) The Department of Transportation and Development.
- (2) The office of broadband, development and connectivity.
- (3) Louisiana One Call.
- (4) Utility providers.
- (5) Local governments.
- (6) Other relevant stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) The current structure, governance, and funding of Louisiana One Call and the 811 system.
- (2) The feasibility of creating a dedicated division or office focused on underground utility coordination, damage prevention, utility mapping, and excavation safety.
- (3) Potential improvements in coordination between utilities, excavators, state agencies, local governments, and broadband providers.
- (4) Opportunities for enhanced enforcement, data collection, reporting, and accountability related to underground utility damages.
- (5) The potential integration of underground utility mapping initiatives and digital infrastructure coordination efforts.
- (6) Best practices from other states regarding the administration and oversight of 811 systems and underground utility protection programs.

(7) Estimated costs, funding sources, and staffing requirements associated with any proposed organizational changes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Service Commission shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs no later than February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chair of the Public Service Commission, the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, the executive director of the office of broadband, development and connectivity, and the executive director of Louisiana One Call.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES