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## Senate Committee on Communications and Public Utilities

### **CS/HB 799 — Theft of Copper or Other Nonferrous Metals**

by Safety and Security Council and Rep. Adams and others (CS/SB 1384 by Communications and Public Utilities Committee and Senators Dean, Lynn, Baker, Haridopolos, and Crist)

The bill creates s. 812.145, F.S., to make it a first degree felony for a person to knowingly and intentionally take copper or other nonferrous metals from a utility or communications services provider (as defined in the bill), and thereby:

- Cause damage to the facilities of a utility or communications services provider,
- Interrupt or interfere with communications services or utility service, or
- Interfere with the ability of a utility or communications services provider to provide service.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 37-0; House 116-0*

### **CS/SB 794 — Underground Utilities/Excavations and Demolitions**

by Communications and Public Utilities Committee and Senator Bennett

The bill amends s. 556.105, F.S., to prohibit an excavator or an underground facilities operator from charging expenses associated with compliance with the Florida One-Call notice requirements after the effective date of the act. It also provides that this prohibition does not excuse a facilities operator or excavator from liability for any damage or injury for which it would be responsible under applicable law.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

*Vote: Senate 39-0; House 118-0*

### **CS/SB 2052 — Water and Wastewater Utilities**

by Communications and Public Utilities Committee and Senator Baker

The bill increases the revenue threshold for a water or wastewater utility to be eligible for a Staff Assisted Rate Case (SARC). It raises the current revenue cap to \$250,000 from \$150,000, that was set in 1989, and then allows the Public Service Commission (commission) to adjust the cap every five years based on the index established pursuant to s. 367.081(4)(a), F.S. The commission is required to periodically report to the Legislature on the status of the proceedings conducted under the bill and provide additional information as proscribed in the bill.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

*Vote: Senate 37-0; House 116-1*

