1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to infrastructure regulation; amending
3	s. 350.061, F.S.; providing term limits for the Public
4	Counsel; providing an exception for time served before
5	a specified date; providing for the appointment and
6	removal of the Public Counsel; requiring the Committee
7	on Public Counsel Oversight to receive applications,
8	conduct interviews, and appoint a Public Counsel by a
9	specified date every 4 years; providing for the
10	filling of vacancies; amending s. 556.102, F.S.;
11	providing definitions; amending s. 556.107, F.S.;
12	revising and providing noncriminal violations relating
13	to the transportation of certain hazardous materials;
14	authorizing the State Fire Marshal or his or her
15	agents to issue certain citations; providing enhanced
16	civil penalties; providing disposition of the civil
17	penalty; requiring a report by additional entities;
18	providing requirements for the report; providing civil
19	penalties; amending s. 556.116, F.S.; deleting
20	definitions; requiring certain persons to transmit an
21	incident report to the State Fire Marshal; providing
22	that certain incident reports must be submitted to,
23	and investigated by, the State Fire Marshal or his or
24	her agents; authorizing the State Fire Marshal or his
25	or her agents to issue citations and civil penalties;
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26 providing for disposition of the civil penalty; 27 requiring written warnings for certain noncriminal 28 infractions; providing for an enhanced penalty upon 29 conviction for a failure to respond; removing 30 provisions relating to hearings by the Division of Administrative Hearings of certain incidents; creating 31 32 s. 556.117, F.S.; requiring Sunshine State One-Call of 33 Florida, Inc., to review certain reports and complaints; requiring the corporation to identify 34 areas in the state in need of additional education and 35 to recommend solutions; requiring an annual report to 36 37 the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing an effective date. 38 39 40 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 41 42 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 350.061, Florida 43 Statutes, is amended to read: 44 350.061 Public Counsel; appointment; oath; restrictions on 45 Public Counsel and his or her employees.-46 The committee designated by joint rule of the (1)47 Legislature or by agreement between the President of the Senate 48 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives as the Committee on Public Counsel Oversight shall appoint a Public Counsel to 49 50 represent the general public of Florida before the Florida

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Public Service Commission. The Public Counsel shall be an 51 52 attorney admitted to practice before the Florida Supreme Court, 53 and shall be appointed for a term of 4 years, and may be 54 reappointed thereafter, provided that a person appointed as the 55 Public Counsel may not serve more than 12 consecutive years in 56 the position. However, the time served by the Public Counsel before July 1, 2020, may not be considered in applying the 57 58 limitation on consecutive years of service. The Public Counsel 59 shall be appointed by a majority vote of the committee 60 appointees of each house and may be removed from office by a majority vote of the committee appointees of each house. A 61 62 person may continue as Public Counsel beyond the 4-year term 63 until his or her successor is appointed and takes office, unless 64 the person is removed by a vote of the committee. The Committee 65 on Public Counsel Oversight shall receive applications, conduct 66 interviews, and appoint a Public Counsel to a 4-year term 67 beginning on March 1, 2021, and every 4 years thereafter serve 68 at the pleasure of the Committee on Public Counsel Oversight, 69 subject to biennial reconfirmation by the committee. The Public 70 Counsel shall perform his or her duties independently. Vacancies 71 in the office shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. 72 73 Section 2. Subsections (8) and (9) through (14) of section 74 556.102, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (10) 75 and (12) through (17), respectively, and new subsections (8),

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76	(9), and (11) are added to that section, to read:
77	556.102 Definitions.—As used in this act:
78	(8) "High-priority subsurface installation" means an
79	underground gas transmission or gas distribution pipeline, or an
80	underground pipeline used to transport gasoline, jet fuel, or
81	any other refined petroleum product or hazardous or highly
82	volatile liquid, such as anhydrous ammonia or carbon dioxide, if
83	the pipeline is deemed to be critical by the operator of the
84	pipeline and is identified as a high-priority subsurface
85	installation to an excavator who has provided a notice of intent
86	to excavate under to s. 556.105(1), or would have been
87	identified as a high-priority subsurface installation except for
88	the excavator's failure to give proper notice of intent to
89	excavate.
89 90	<u>excavate.</u> (9) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a
90	(9) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a
90 91	(9) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a high-priority subsurface installation that has been identified
90 91 92	(9) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a high-priority subsurface installation that has been identified as such by the operator according to the notification procedures
90 91 92 93	(9) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a high-priority subsurface installation that has been identified as such by the operator according to the notification procedures set forth in s. 556.116(1) and that:
90 91 92 93 94	(9) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a high-priority subsurface installation that has been identified as such by the operator according to the notification procedures set forth in s. 556.116(1) and that: 1. Results in death or serious bodily injury requiring
90 91 92 93 94 95	(9) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a high-priority subsurface installation that has been identified as such by the operator according to the notification procedures set forth in s. 556.116(1) and that: 1. Results in death or serious bodily injury requiring inpatient hospitalization.
90 91 92 93 94 95 96	(9) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a high-priority subsurface installation that has been identified as such by the operator according to the notification procedures set forth in s. 556.116(1) and that: 1. Results in death or serious bodily injury requiring inpatient hospitalization. 2. Results in property damage, including service-
90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97	<pre>(9) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a high-priority subsurface installation that has been identified as such by the operator according to the notification procedures set forth in s. 556.116(1) and that: 1. Results in death or serious bodily injury requiring inpatient hospitalization. 2. Results in property damage, including service- restoration costs, in an amount in excess of \$50,000 or an</pre>
90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98	(9) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a high-priority subsurface installation that has been identified as such by the operator according to the notification procedures set forth in s. 556.116(1) and that: 1. Results in death or serious bodily injury requiring inpatient hospitalization. 2. Results in property damage, including service- restoration costs, in an amount in excess of \$50,000 or an interruption of service to 2,500 or more customers.

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101 made of material that is durable in nature and which is 102 reasonably expected to remain in position for the life of the 103 underground facility. 104 Section 3. Section 556.107, Florida Statutes, is amended 105 to read: 556.107 Violations.-106 107 (1) NONCRIMINAL INFRACTIONS.-108 (a)1. Violations of the following provisions are noncriminal infractions: 109 a.1. Section 556.105(1), relating to providing required 110 111 information. 112 b. Section 556.105(5)(c), relating to excavation practices 113 in tolerance zones. 114 c.2. Section 556.105(6), relating to the avoidance of 115 excavation. d.3. Section 556.105(11), relating to the need to stop 116 excavation or demolition because marks are no longer visible, 117 118 or, in the case of underwater facilities, are inadequately 119 documented. 120 e.4. Section 556.105(12), relating to the need to cease 121 excavation or demolition activities because of contact or damage 122 to an underground facility. f.5. Section 556.105(5)(a) and (b), relating to 123 124 identification of underground facilities, if a member operator does not mark an underground facility, but not if a member 125

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126	operator marks an underground facility incorrectly.
127	g. 6. Section 556.109(2), relating to falsely notifying the
128	system of an emergency situation or condition.
129	<u>h.</u> 7. Section 556.114(1), (2), (3), and (4), relating to a
130	failure to follow low-impact marking practices, as defined
131	therein.
132	2. Violations of the following provisions involving an
133	underground facility transporting hazardous materials that are
134	regulated by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
135	Administration of the United States Department of Transportation
136	are noncriminal infractions, subject to enhanced civil penalties
137	under paragraph (c):
138	a. Section 556.105(1), relating to providing required
139	information.
140	b. Section 556.105(5)(c), relating to excavation practices
	5. Section 550.105(5)(c), relating to excavation practices
141	in tolerance zones.
141 142	
	in tolerance zones.
142	<u>in tolerance zones.</u> <u>c. Section 556.105(6), relating to the avoidance of</u>
142 143	<u>in tolerance zones.</u> <u>c. Section 556.105(6), relating to the avoidance of</u> <u>certain excavation.</u>
142 143 144	<u>in tolerance zones.</u> <u>c. Section 556.105(6), relating to the avoidance of</u> <u>certain excavation.</u> <u>d. Section 556.105(11), relating to the need to stop</u>
142 143 144 145	<pre>in tolerance zones. c. Section 556.105(6), relating to the avoidance of certain excavation. d. Section 556.105(11), relating to the need to stop excavation or demolition because certain marks are removed, no</pre>
142 143 144 145 146	<pre>in tolerance zones. c. Section 556.105(6), relating to the avoidance of certain excavation. d. Section 556.105(11), relating to the need to stop excavation or demolition because certain marks are removed, no longer visible, or inadequately documented.</pre>
142 143 144 145 146 147	<pre>in tolerance zones. c. Section 556.105(6), relating to the avoidance of certain excavation. d. Section 556.105(11), relating to the need to stop excavation or demolition because certain marks are removed, no longer visible, or inadequately documented. e. Section 556.105(12), relating to the need to cease</pre>
142 143 144 145 146 147 148	<pre>in tolerance zones. c. Section 556.105(6), relating to the avoidance of certain excavation. d. Section 556.105(11), relating to the need to stop excavation or demolition because certain marks are removed, no longer visible, or inadequately documented. e. Section 556.105(12), relating to the need to cease excavation or demolition activities because of contact or damage</pre>

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151 noncriminal infraction under paragraph (a) may be issued a 152 citation by the State Fire Marshal or his or her agents as 153 provided in ss. 633.114 and 633.116; the fire chief of the 154 special district, municipality, or county; or any local or state 155 law enforcement officer, government code inspector, or code 156 enforcement officer, and the issuer of a citation may require an 157 excavator to cease work on any excavation or not start a 158 proposed excavation until there has been compliance with the 159 provisions of this chapter. Citations shall be hand delivered to 160 any employee of the excavator or member operator who is involved in the noncriminal infraction. The citation shall be issued in 161 162 the name of the excavator or member operator, whichever is 163 applicable.

164 (c)1. Any excavator or member operator who commits a 165 noncriminal infraction under subparagraph (a)1. paragraph (a) 166 may be required to pay a civil penalty of \$500 plus court costs 167 for each infraction, which is \$500 plus court costs. If a 168 citation is issued by a state law enforcement officer, a local 169 law enforcement officer, a local government code inspector, or a 170 code enforcement officer, 80 percent of the civil penalty 171 collected by the clerk of the court must shall be distributed to 172 the governmental entity whose employee issued the citation and 20 percent of the penalty must shall be retained by the clerk to 173 174 cover administrative costs, in addition to any other court 175 costs. Any person who fails to properly respond to a citation

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176	issued pursuant to paragraph (b) shall, in addition to the
177	citation, be charged with the offense of failing to respond to
178	the citation and, upon conviction, commits a misdemeanor of the
179	second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
180	775.083. A written warning to this effect must be provided at
181	the time any citation is issued pursuant to paragraph (b).
182	2. Any excavator or member operator who commits a
183	noncriminal infraction under subparagraph (a)2. may be required
184	to pay an enhanced civil penalty of \$2,500 plus court costs for
185	each infraction. If a citation is issued, 80 percent of the
186	civil penalty collected by the clerk of the court must be
187	distributed to the governmental entity whose employee issued the
188	citation and 20 percent must be retained by the clerk in
189	addition to any court costs.
190	3. Any person who willfully fails to properly respond to a
191	citation issued under paragraph (b) shall, in addition to the
192	citation, be charged with the offense of failing to respond to
193	the citation and, upon conviction, commits a misdemeanor of the
194	second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
195	775.083. A written warning to this effect must be provided at
196	the time a citation is issued under paragraph (b).
197	(d) Any person cited for an infraction under paragraph (a)
198	or s. 556.116(2)(c) may post a bond, which must shall be equal
199	in amount to the applicable civil penalty plus any additional
200	court costs.
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201 A person charged with a noncriminal infraction under (e) 202 paragraph (a) or s. 556.116(2)(c) may pay the applicable civil 203 penalty plus the additional court costs, by mail or in person, 204 within 30 days after the date of receiving the citation. If the 205 person cited pays the civil penalty, she or he is deemed to have 206 admitted to committing the infraction and to have waived the 207 right to a hearing on the issue of commission of the infraction. 208 The admission may be used as evidence in any other proceeding 209 under this chapter.

210 (f) Any person may elect to have a hearing on the commission of the infraction appear before the county court. A 211 212 person who elects to have a hearing waives and if so electing is 213 deemed to have waived the limitations on the civil penalties 214 penalty specified in paragraph (c). The court, after a hearing, 215 shall make a determination as to whether an infraction has been 216 committed. If the commission of an infraction has been proven, 217 the court may impose a civil penalty not to exceed the applicable civil penalty $\frac{5,000}{100}$ plus court costs for each 218 219 infraction. In determining the amount of the civil penalty, the 220 court may consider previous noncriminal infractions committed.

(g) At a court hearing under this chapter, the commission of a charged infraction must be proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

(h) If <u>the court finds that</u> a person is found by a judge
 or hearing official to have committed an infraction, the person

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226 may appeal that finding <u>or the amount of the civil penalties</u> 227 imposed to the circuit court.

228 (i) Sunshine State One-Call of Florida, Inc., may, at its 229 own cost, retain an attorney to assist in the presentation of 230 relevant facts and law in the county court proceeding pertaining 231 to the citation issued under this section. The corporation may 232 also appear in any case appealed to the circuit court if a 233 county court judge finds that an infraction of the chapter was 234 committed. An appellant in the circuit court proceeding shall 235 timely notify the corporation of any appeal under this section.

236 REPORT OF INFRACTIONS.-By March 31 of each year, each (2)237 clerk of court shall submit a report to the State Fire Marshal 238 and Sunshine State One-Call of Florida, Inc., listing each 239 citation issued for a violation notice written under paragraph 240 (1) (a) and s. 556.116(2) (c) which has been filed in that county 241 during the preceding calendar year. The report must state the 242 name and address of the member or excavator who committed each 243 infraction, the enforcement authority, the specific statutory 244 infraction, and the type of underground facility related to the 245 infraction and must indicate whether or not the civil penalty 246 for the infraction was paid.

247

(3) MISDEMEANORS.-

(a) Any person who knowingly and willfully removes or
otherwise destroys the valid stakes or other valid physical
markings described in s. 556.105(5)(a) and (b) used to mark the

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251 horizontal route of an underground facility commits a 252 misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 253 775.082 or s. 775.083. For purposes of this subsection, stakes 254 or other nonpermanent physical markings are considered valid for 255 30 calendar days after information is provided to the system 256 under s. 556.105(1)(a). 257 (b) Any person who knowingly and willfully removes or 258 damages a permanent marker placed to identify the approximate 259 location of an underground facility commits a misdemeanor of the 260 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 261 775.083. 262 Section 4. Section 556.116, Florida Statutes, is amended 263 to read: 264 556.116 High-priority subsurface installations; special 265 procedures.-266 (1) As used in this section, the term: 267 (a) "Division" means the Division of Administrative 268 Hearings. 269 (b) "High-priority subsurface installation" means an 270 underground gas transmission or gas distribution pipeline, an 271 underground pipeline used to transport gasoline, jet fuel, or 272 any other refined petroleum product or hazardous or highly volatile liquid, such as anhydrous ammonia or carbon dioxide, if 273 274 the pipeline is deemed to be critical by the operator of the 275 pipeline and is identified as a high-priority subsurface



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276 installation to an excavator who has provided a notice of intent 277 to excavate pursuant to s. 556.105(1), or would have been 278 identified as a high-priority subsurface installation except for 279 the excavator's failure to give proper notice of intent to 280 excavate.

281 (c) "Incident" means an event that involves damage to a 282 high-priority subsurface installation that has been identified 283 as such by the operator according to the notification procedures 284 set forth in subsection (2) and that:

285 1. Results in death or serious bodily injury requiring 286 inpatient hospitalization.

287 2. Results in property damage, including service-288 restoration costs, in an amount in excess of \$50,000 or 289 interruption of service to 2,500 or more customers.

(1)(2) When an excavator proposes to excavate or demolish 290 291 within 15 feet of the horizontal route of an underground 292 facility that has been identified as a high-priority subsurface 293 installation by the operator of the facility, the operator 294 shall, in addition to identifying the horizontal route of its 295 facility as set forth in s. 556.105(5)(a) and (b), and within 296 the time period set forth in s. 556.105(9)(a) for a positive 297 response, notify the excavator that the facility is a highpriority subsurface installation. If the member operator 298 provides such timely notice of the existence of a high-priority 299 300 subsurface installation, an excavator shall notify the operator

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301 of the planned excavation start date and time before beginning 302 excavation. If the member operator does not provide timely 303 notice, the excavator may proceed, after waiting the prescribed 304 time period set forth in s. 556.105(9)(a), to excavate without 305 notifying the member operator of the excavation start date and 306 time. The exemptions stated in s. 556.108 apply to the 307 notification requirements in this subsection.

308 (2)(a)(3)(a) An alleged commission of an infraction listed 309 in s. 556.107(1) which results in an incident must be reported 310 to the system and the State Fire Marshal by a member operator or 311 an excavator within 24 hours after learning of the alleged 312 occurrence of an incident.

(b) Upon receipt of an allegation that an incident has 313 314 occurred, the member operator or excavator system shall transmit 315 an incident report to the State Fire Marshal who shall division and contract with the division so that the division may conduct 316 317 an investigation a hearing to determine whether an incident has 318 occurred, and, if so, whether a violation of s. 556.107(1)(a) 319 was a proximate cause of the incident. The State Fire Marshal 320 may authorize his or her agents, as provided in ss. 633.114, 321 633.116, and 633.118, to conduct investigations of incidents The 322 contract for services to be performed by the division must 323 include provisions for the system to reimburse the division for 324 any costs incurred by the division for court reporters, 325 transcript preparation, travel, facility rental, and other

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326 customary hearing costs, in the manner set forth in s. 327 $\frac{120.65(9)}{120.65(9)}$ 328 The State Fire Marshal or his or her agents as (C) provided in ss. 633.114, 633.116, and 633.118 division has 329 330 jurisdiction in a proceeding under this section to determine the 331 facts and law concerning an alleged incident. The division may 332 issue a citation and impose a civil penalty fine against a 333 violator in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 if the person violated a provision of s. 556.107(1)(a) and that violation was 334 335 a proximate cause of the incident. However, if a state agency or 336 political subdivision caused the incident, the state agency or 337 political subdivision may not be fined in an amount in excess of 338 \$10,000. 339 (d) The civil penalty A fine imposed under this subsection 340 by the division is in addition to any amount payable as a result 341 of a citation relating to the incident under s. 556.107(1)(a). 342 If an additional civil penalty is imposed by the State (e) Fire Marshal or his or her agents, 5 percent of the civil 343 344 penalty must be retained by the clerk to cover administrative 345 costs, and the remainder of the civil penalty must be 346 distributed equally between the system and the State Fire 347 Marshal. The portion of the civil penalty distributed to the 348 system must be used exclusively to fund damage-prevention education. The portion of the civil penalty distributed to the 349 350 State Fire Marshal must be used exclusively to fund programs

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351 created within the State Fire Marshal's office that provide 352 need-based financial assistance to help fire departments, 353 including volunteer fire departments, procure equipment, 354 supplies, and educational training designed to mitigate 355 firefighter exposure to hazardous, cancer-causing chemicals A fine against an excavator or a member operator imposed under 356 357 this subsection shall be paid to the system, which shall use the 358 collected fines to satisfy the costs incurred by the system for 359 any proceedings under this section. To the extent there are any 360 funds remaining, the system may use the funds exclusively for 361 damage-prevention education. 362 (f) Any excavator or member operator who commits a 363 noncriminal infraction under s. 556.116(2)(c) must be provided a 364 written warning at the time a citation is issued stating that 365 any person who willfully fails to properly respond to a citation 366 will be charged, in addition to the citation, with the offense 367 of failing to respond to the citation and, if convicted, commits 368 a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 369 775.082 or s. 775.083. 370 This section does not change the basis for civil (q) 371 liability. The findings and results of an investigation a 372 hearing under this section may not be used as evidence of 373 liability in any civil action. (4) (a) The division shall issue and serve on all original 374 375 parties an initial order that assigns the case to specific

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376	administrative law judge and requests information regarding
377	scheduling the final hearing within 5 business days after the
378	division receives a petition or request for hearing. The
379	original parties in the proceeding include all excavators and
380	member operators identified by the system as being involved in
381	the alleged incident. The final hearing must be conducted within
382	60 days after the date the petition or the request for a hearing
383	is filed with the division.
384	(b) Unless the parties otherwise agree, venue for the
385	hearing shall be in the county in which the underground facility
386	is located.
387	(c) An intervenor in the proceeding must file a petition
388	to intervene no later than 15 days before the final hearing. A
389	person who has a substantial interest in the proceeding may
390	intervene.
391	(5) The following procedures apply:
392	(a) Motions shall be limited to the following:
393	1. A motion in opposition to the petition.
394	2. A motion requesting discovery beyond the informal
395	exchange of documents and witness lists described in paragraph
396	(c). Upon a showing of necessity, additional discovery may be
397	permitted in the discretion of the administrative law judge, but
398	only if the discovery can be completed no later than 5 days
399	before the final hearing.
400	3. A motion for continuance of the final hearing date.
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401	(b) All parties shall attend a prehearing conference for
402	the purpose of identifying the legal and factual issues to be
403	considered at the final hearing, the names and addresses of
404	witnesses who may be called to testify at the final hearing,
405	documentary evidence that will be offered at the final hearing,
406	the range of penalties that may be imposed, and any other matter
407	that would expedite resolution of the proceeding. The prehearing
408	conference may be held by telephone conference call.
409	(c) Not later than 5 days before the final hearing, the
410	parties shall furnish to each other copies of documentary
411	evidence and lists of witnesses who may testify at the final
412	hearing.
413	(d) All parties shall have an opportunity to respond, to
414	present evidence and argument on all issues involved, to conduct
415	cross-examination and submit rebuttal evidence, and to be
416	represented by counsel or other qualified representative.
417	(e) The record shall consist only of:
418	1. All notices, pleadings, motions, and intermediate
419	rulings.
420	2. Evidence received during the final hearing.
421	3. A statement of matters officially recognized.
422	4. Proffers of proof and objections and rulings thereon.
423	5. Matters placed on the record after an ex parte
424	communication.
425	6. The written final order of the administrative law judge
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426	presiding at the final hearing.
427	7. The official transcript of the final hearing.
428	(f) The division shall accurately and completely preserve
429	all testimony in the proceeding and, upon request by any party,
430	shall make a full or partial transcript available at no more
431	than actual cost.
432	(g) The administrative law judge shall issue a final order
433	within 30 days after the final hearing or the filing of the
434	transcript thereof, whichever is later. The final order of the
435	administrative law judge must include:
436	1. Findings of fact based exclusively on the evidence of
437	record and matters officially recognized.
438	2. Conclusions of law. In determining whether a party has
439	committed an infraction of s. 556.107(1)(a), and whether the
440	infraction was a proximate cause of an incident, the commission
441	of an infraction must be proven by a preponderance of the
442	evidence.
443	3. Imposition of a fine, if applicable.
444	4. Any other information required by law or rule to be
445	contained in a final order.
446	
447	The final order of the administrative law judge constitutes
448	final agency action subject to judicial review pursuant to s.
449	120.68.
450	Section 5. Section 556.117, Florida Statutes, is created
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451	to read:
452	556.117 Underground facility damage prevention review
453	Sunshine State One-Call of Florida, Inc., shall review the
454	reports submitted by the clerks of court to the State Fire
455	Marshal and any complaints of an alleged violation under this
456	chapter to identify issues or potential issues with damage
457	prevention and enforcement. The corporation shall identify areas
458	in the state where additional education related to damage
459	prevention and enforcement is needed and shall recommend
460	solutions to remedy issues related to damage prevention and
461	enforcement. The corporation shall, by October 1 of each year,
462	submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
463	Speaker of the House of Representatives an analysis of its
464	reviews and any recommendations for improving underground
465	facility damage prevention and enforcement.
466	Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.
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