

**As Introduced**

**131st General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2015-2016**

**S. R. No. 367**

**Senator Coley**

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**A RESOLUTION**

Designating Ohio Safe Digging Month, April 2016.

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the 131st General 1  
Assembly of Ohio are pleased to designate April 2016 as Safe 2  
Digging Month in Ohio; and 3

WHEREAS, The U.S. underground infrastructure includes nearly 4  
twenty million miles of buried pipelines and cables that transport 5  
petroleum, natural gas, electricity, communications, cable 6  
television, steam, water, and sewer. Each year, many Ohioans risk 7  
personal injury, damage to the environment, service interruptions, 8  
and even death due to accidentally digging near these facilities; 9  
and 10

WHEREAS, In 2005, the Federal Communications Commission 11  
established the 8-1-1 national call number to provide a means for 12  
potential excavators and homeowners to request utility line 13  
locations, and this service is monitored locally by the Ohio 14  
Utilities Protection Service. A vital resource for Ohio residents 15  
and businesses, OUPS serves as a communication link between 16  
utility companies and individuals, and it processes more than one 17  
million calls annually; and 18

WHEREAS, The Ohio Revised Code requires all individuals and 19  
companies to contact the Ohio Utilities Protection Service at 20  
least forty-eight hours before digging, and in an effort to raise 21  
awareness of this important issue, OUPS has partnered with the 22  
Common Ground Alliance to promote the National Call Before You Dig 23  
number, as well as the use of safe digging practices. The many 24  
individuals who have been involved with this endeavor are 25  
certainly deserving of high praise for their commitment to safety; 26  
therefore be it 27

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 131st 28  
General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, designate 29  
April 2016 as Ohio Safe Digging Month and encourage all Ohioans to 30  
take part in appropriate observances; and be it further 31

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 32  
authenticated copies of this Resolution to the Ohio Utilities 33  
Protection Service and to the news media of Ohio. 34