

**CHAPTER 88, Laws of 1977**

AN ACT to create 101.111 of the statutes, relating to the rights and duties of adjoining landowners with respect to lateral support.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. 101.111 of the statutes is created to read:

**101.111 Excavations; protection of adjoining property and buildings.** (1) DEFINITION. In this section "excavator" means any owner of an interest in land making or causing to be made an excavation.

(2) CAVE-IN PREVENTION. Any excavator shall protect the excavation site in such a manner so as to prevent the soil of adjoining property from caving in or settling.

(3) LIABILITY FOR UNDERPINNING AND FOUNDATION EXTENSIONS. (a) If the excavation is made to a depth of 12 feet or less below grade, the excavator may not be held liable for the expense of any necessary underpinning or extension of the foundations of buildings on adjoining properties.

(b) If the excavation is made to a depth in excess of 12 feet below grade, the excavator shall be liable for the expense of any necessary underpinning or extension of the foundations of any adjoining buildings below the depth of 12 feet below grade. The owners of adjoining buildings shall be liable for the expense of any necessary underpinning or extension of the foundations of their buildings to the depth of 12 feet below grade.

(4) NOTICE. Unless waived by adjoining owners, at least 30 days prior to commencing the excavation the excavator shall notify, in writing, all owners of adjoining buildings of his or her intention to excavate. The notice shall state that adjoining buildings may require permanent protection. The owners of adjoining property shall have access to the excavation site for the purpose of protecting their buildings.

(5) EMPLOYEES NOT LIABLE. No worker who is an employe of an excavator may be held liable for his or her employer's failure to comply with this section.

(6) FAILURE TO COMPLY; INJUNCTION. If any excavator fails to comply with this section, any aggrieved person may commence an action to obtain an order under ch. 813 directing such excavator to comply with this section and restraining the excavator from further violation thereof. If the aggrieved person prevails in the action, he or she shall be reimbursed for all his or her costs and disbursements together with such actual attorney fees as may be approved by the court.

(7) APPLICATION OF THIS SECTION. (a) Subject to par. (b), this section applies to any excavation made after the effective date of this act (1977).

(b) This section does not apply to any excavation made under a contract awarded on or before the effective date of this act (1977).

SECTION 2. **Effective date.** This act shall take effect on January 1, 1978, or on the day after its publication, whichever is later.