

SENATE BILL 602

E4, C5

3lr1366
CF 3lr2553

By: **Senator Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2013

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Gas Pipelines – Best Available Technology Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to adopt regulations that
4 establish safety standards and practices applicable to the design, construction,
5 operation, and maintenance of certain gas pipelines; requiring the Commission
6 to adopt regulations that require a gas transmission company to use best
7 available technology to monitor the condition and safety of certain gas pipelines;
8 requiring the Commission to adopt certain federal safety regulations as
9 minimum standards for regulations adopted under this Act; providing for the
10 jurisdiction and enforcement authority of the Commission; defining certain
11 terms; and generally relating to gas pipeline safety.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Public Safety

14 Section 15–101 through 15–103 to be under the new title “Title 15. Gas Pipeline
15 Safety”

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Public Safety**

21 **TITLE 15. GAS PIPELINE SAFETY.**

22 **15–101.**

23 **(A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
24 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.**

2 **(C) “GAS” MEANS NATURAL GAS, FLAMMABLE GAS, OR TOXIC OR**
3 **CORROSIVE GAS.**

4 **(D) “GAS PIPELINE” MEANS AN INTRASTATE TRANSMISSION LINE OR**
5 **ANY PORTION OF AN INTERSTATE TRANSMISSION LINE LOCATED WITHIN THE**
6 **STATE THAT:**

7 **(1) TRANSPORTS GAS FROM A GATHERING LINE OR STORAGE**
8 **FACILITY TO A DISTRIBUTION CENTER, STORAGE FACILITY, OR LARGE VOLUME**
9 **CUSTOMER THAT IS NOT DOWNSTREAM FROM A DISTRIBUTION CENTER;**

10 **(2) OPERATES AT A HOOP STRESS OF 20% OR MORE OF THE**
11 **SPECIFIED MINIMUM YIELD STRENGTH OF THE PIPELINE; OR**

12 **(3) TRANSPORTS GAS WITHIN A STORAGE FIELD.**

13 **(E) (1) “GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY” MEANS A PERSON THAT**
14 **OWNS OR OPERATES A GAS PIPELINE REGULATED UNDER THIS TITLE.**

15 **(2) “GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY” DOES NOT INCLUDE A**
16 **PERSON THAT IS PRIMARILY IN THE BUSINESS OF LOCAL GAS DISTRIBUTION.**

17 **15-102.**

18 **(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH**
19 **SAFETY STANDARDS AND PRACTICES APPLICABLE TO THE DESIGN,**
20 **CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF GAS PIPELINES.**

21 **(B) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT REQUIRE**
22 **THAT A GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY USE BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY,**
23 **INCLUDING IN-LINE INSPECTION DEVICES, TO MONITOR THE CONDITION AND**
24 **SAFETY OF EACH GAS PIPELINE OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE GAS**
25 **TRANSMISSION COMPANY.**

26 **(C) FOR ANY PIPELINE REGULATORY PROGRAM THAT THE COMMISSION**
27 **ESTABLISHES UNDER THIS TITLE, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT AS MINIMUM**
28 **STANDARDS THE FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS IN TITLE 49, C.F.R. PART 192.**

29 **15-103.**

1 **THE COMMISSION HAS JURISDICTION OVER AND MAY ENFORCE THIS**
2 **TITLE AND ANY REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER THIS TITLE TO THE SAME**
3 **EXTENT AND IN THE SAME MANNER AS ANY PROVISION OF DIVISION I OF THE**
4 **PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE, AS PROVIDED IN TITLE 13 OF THE PUBLIC**
5 **UTILITIES ARTICLE.**

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2013.