

SENATE BILL 361

C5, E4

4lr1550

By: **Senator Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2014

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Gas Pipeline Inspection Requirements – Best Available**
3 **Technology**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a gas transmission company operating within the State
5 to comply with certain federal laws and regulations with respect to gas pipeline
6 safety inspections; authorizing the Public Service Commission to adopt
7 regulations specifying certain technology to be used for the inspection of certain
8 gas pipelines located within the State; providing for the jurisdiction and
9 enforcement authority of the Commission; declaring the intent of the General
10 Assembly; and generally relating to gas pipeline safety.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Public Safety
13 Section 15–101
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Public Safety
18 Section 15–103 and 15–104
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Public Safety**

24 15–101.

25 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings 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 corrosive gas.

3 (d) (1) “Gas pipeline” means an intrastate transmission line or any
4 portion of an interstate transmission line located within the State that:

5 (i) transports gas from a gathering line or storage facility to a
6 distribution center, storage facility, or large volume customer that is not downstream
7 from a distribution center;

8 (ii) operates at a hoop stress of 20% or more of the specified
9 minimum yield strength of the pipeline; or

10 (iii) transports gas within a storage field.

11 (2) “Gas pipeline” does not mean any transmission line or distribution
12 line constructed, owned, or operated by a public service company as defined in § 1–101
13 of the Public Utilities Article.

14 (e) (1) “Gas transmission company” means a person that owns or operates
15 a gas pipeline regulated under this title.

16 (2) “Gas transmission company” does not include a person that is
17 primarily in the business of local gas distribution.

18 **15–103.**

19 (A) A GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY OPERATING WITHIN THE STATE
20 SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS
21 REGARDING GAS PIPELINE SAFETY INSPECTIONS.

22 (B) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS SPECIFYING THE
23 TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED FOR THE INSPECTION OF GAS PIPELINES LOCATED
24 WITHIN THE STATE.

25 **15–104.**

26 THE COMMISSION HAS JURISDICTION OVER AND MAY ENFORCE THIS
27 TITLE AND ANY REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER IT TO THE SAME EXTENT AND IN
28 THE SAME MANNER AS ANY PROVISIONS OF DIVISION I OF THE PUBLIC
29 UTILITIES ARTICLE, AS PROVIDED IN TITLE 13 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES
30 ARTICLE.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, in order to protect public
2 safety, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the best available technology be
3 used for the inspection of gas pipelines located within the State.

4 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2014.