
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2023 Wisconsin Act 242 [2023 Senate Bill 812]

Gas Pipeline Safety

State and federal law provide that a person who owns, operates, manages, or controls any facility for the production, transmission, or distribution of gas must construct, operate, and maintain the facility in a reasonably adequate and safe manner. If the person fails to follow these requirements, federal law may impose a forfeiture of up to \$257,664 per violation, up to a maximum amount of \$2,576,627 for a single persisting violation, pursuant to U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) regulations in effect.

2023 Wisconsin Act 242 modifies state statutes to provide that the maximum penalty under state law, for a failure to follow the above requirements, shall be the maximum amount under the applicable USDOT regulations. Prior to the enactment of Act 242, state statutes had imposed a forfeiture of up to \$25,000 per day, with a limit of \$500,000 for a single persisting violation. As a result of the enactment of Act 242, the maximum penalties allowed under state law are increased to match those under federal law (or \$257,664 per violation, with an overall limit of \$2,576,627, as described above).

Effective date: March 29, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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