

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3226

To amend title 49, United States Code, to improve pipeline safety.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 1999

Mr. METCALF introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to improve pipeline safety.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe Pipelines Act of
5 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL SAFETY CERTIFICATION OF PIPELINE EM-**
7 **PLOYEES.**

8 Section 60102(a)(1)(C) of title 49, United States
9 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 “(C) shall include a requirement that all
 2 individuals responsible for the operation and
 3 maintenance of pipeline facilities shall be tested
 4 for qualification to perform such functions and
 5 certified by the Secretary to perform such func-
 6 tions.”.

7 **SEC. 3. CORROSION TESTING.**

8 Section 60102(f) of title 49, United States Code, is
 9 amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(3) CORROSION TESTING.—Not later than 180
 11 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
 12 the Secretary shall require that the operator of a
 13 pipeline facility with an instrumented internal in-
 14 spection device periodically test the facility for corro-
 15 sion and anomalies and make the results of the test
 16 available to the public. The period between each test
 17 shall be no longer than 5 years.”.

18 **SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION OF SPILLS.**

19 Section 60102(h)(1) of title 49, United States Code,
 20 is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and
 22 (B) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and
 23 (2) by inserting before subparagraph (C) (as so
 24 redesignated) the following:

25 “(A) spill of more than 40 gallons;

1 “(B) rupture of a pipeline;”.

2 **SEC. 5. HYDROSTATIC TESTING.**

3 Section 60108(b) of title 49, United States Code, is
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(4) HYDROSTATIC TESTING.—Not later than
6 180 days after the date of enactment of this para-
7 graph, the Secretary shall require that the operator
8 of a pipeline facility subject to this chapter that is
9 not covered by a certification under section 60105 or
10 an agreement under section 60106 periodically
11 hydrostatically test the facility to redetermine the
12 maximum allowable operating pressure of the facility
13 and make the results of the test available to the
14 public. The time period between each test shall be no
15 longer than 5 years.”.

16 **SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF PIPELINE MAPS ON INTERNET.**

17 Section 60108 of title 49, United States Code, is
18 amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(e) AVAILABILITY OF PIPELINE MAPS ON INTER-
20 NET.—Not later than October 1, 2000, the Secretary shall
21 make available on the Internet nationwide maps of the lo-
22 cation of all pipeline facilities subject to this chapter.”.

1 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVENESS OF EXTERNAL LEAK DETECTION**
2 **SYSTEMS.**

3 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall
4 conduct a study to determine the effectiveness external
5 leak detection systems, including hydrocarbon sensor ca-
6 bles, for the purpose of improving pipeline leak detection.

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2000, the
8 Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report on the re-
9 sults of the study.

10 **SEC. 8. COST-BENEFIT ANALYSES OF NATIONAL TRANSPOR-**
11 **TATION SAFETY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS.**

12 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
13 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall complete
14 cost-benefit analyses of all recommendations made by the
15 National Transportation Safety Board to the Secretary
16 that the Board classifies as being “open”.

17 **SEC. 9. EFFECTIVENESS OF DOUBLE-WALLED PIPELINES.**

18 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall
19 conduct a study to determine the effectiveness of double-
20 walled pipelines for the purpose of preventing ruptures
21 and leaks.

22 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
23 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transmit to
24 Congress a report on the results of the study.

1 **SEC. 10. OPTIMAL MINIMUM BURIAL DEPTH.**

2 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall
3 conduct a study to determine the optimal minimum burial
4 depth of underground pipelines for the purpose of pre-
5 venting release of hazardous materials into the air.

6 (b) REPORT AND RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1
7 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 shall transmit to Congress a report on the results of the
9 study and shall issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to
10 modify regulations of the Department of Transportation
11 relating to pipeline burial depth to take into account the
12 results of the study.

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