

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1768

To authorize States to enforce pipeline safety requirements related to wellbores at interstate storage facilities.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 15, 2015

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. MORAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To authorize States to enforce pipeline safety requirements related to wellbores at interstate storage facilities.

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 “Underground Gas  
5       Storage Facility Safety Act of 2015”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       Section 60101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is  
8       amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (20), (21),  
 2 (22), (23), (24), and (25) as paragraphs (23), (24),  
 3 (25), (20), (21), and (22), respectively;

4 (2) in paragraph (21), as redesignated, by  
 5 striking “and” at the end;

6 (3) in paragraphs (22) and (24), as redesign-  
 7 nated, by striking the period at the end of each  
 8 paragraph and inserting a semicolon;

9 (4) in paragraph (25), as redesignated, by  
 10 striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;  
 11 and

12 (5) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(26) ‘underground natural gas storage  
 14 wellbore’ means the piping and hole drilled con-  
 15 necting the surface of the earth with the under-  
 16 ground natural gas storage reservoir.”.

17 **SEC. 3. STATE ENFORCEMENT OF PIPELINE SAFETY RE-**  
 18 **QUIREMENTS.**

19 Section 60104(c) of title 49, United States Code, is  
 20 amended—

21 (1) by striking “A State authority that” and in-  
 22 serting “(1) A State authority that”;

23 (2) by striking “A State authority may not”  
 24 and inserting the following:

25 “(2) A State authority may not”;

1           (3) by striking “Notwithstanding the preceding  
2           sentence, a State authority may enforce a require-  
3           ment” and inserting the following:

4           “(3) Notwithstanding the limitation set forth in para-  
5           graph (2), a State authority may—

6           “(A) enforce a requirement”;

7           (4) by striking “chapter 61.” and inserting  
8           “chapter 61; and”; and

9           (5) by adding at the end the following:

10          “(B) enforce a State requirement for the safe  
11          construction and operation of underground natural  
12          gas storage wellbores if—

13                 “(i) the State authority has consulted with  
14                 the Secretary respecting the State requirement;  
15                 and

16                 “(ii) the Secretary does not object to the  
17                 State requirement during the 30-day period be-  
18                 ginning on the date on which the consultation  
19                 described in clause (i) is initiated.”.

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