

# HOUSE BILL 1224

E4, C5

3lr2555  
CF SB 605

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By: **Delegates Stein, Cardin, and Morhaim**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2013

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Gas Pipelines – Emergency Response Planning**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Emergency Management Agency  
4 (MEMA), in consultation with certain persons, to establish emergency response  
5 standards for certain gas transmission companies; requiring a gas transmission  
6 company to submit to MEMA an emergency response plan that meets certain  
7 minimum federal standards; requiring MEMA to review the emergency  
8 response plan of a gas transmission company and to require certain  
9 amendments or updates as needed to protect public safety; requiring a gas  
10 transmission company to meet with a certain local fire department to discuss  
11 and review emergency response plans; defining certain terms; and generally  
12 relating to gas pipeline safety.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Public Safety

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

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Public Safety**

22 **TITLE 15. GAS PIPELINE SAFETY.**

23 **15–101.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
2 **INDICATED.**

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

4           **(C) “GAS” MEANS NATURAL GAS, FLAMMABLE GAS, OR TOXIC OR**  
5 **CORROSIVE GAS.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

19           **(F) “MEMA” MEANS THE MARYLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
20 **AGENCY.**

21 **15-102.**

22           **(A) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL REQUIRE A GAS TRANSMISSION**  
23 **COMPANY TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION A VALVE LOCATION**  
24 **PLAN FOR EACH GAS PIPELINE OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE GAS**  
25 **TRANSMISSION COMPANY.**

26                   **(2) A VALVE LOCATION PLAN SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
27 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW VALVE**  
28 **LOCATIONS.**

29           **(B) THE COMMISSION SHALL EXAMINE THE VALVE LOCATION PLAN OF**  
30 **A GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY AND SHALL:**

1           (1) REQUIRE THE GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY TO INSTALL  
2 AUTOMATIC SHUTOFF OR REMOTE CONTROLLED SECTIONALIZED BLOCK  
3 VALVES WHEREVER THE COMMISSION DETERMINES SUCH VALVES ARE  
4 NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC; AND

5           (2) ESTABLISH ACTION TIMELINES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF  
6 AUTOMATIC SHUTOFF AND REMOTE CONTROLLED SECTIONALIZED BLOCK  
7 VALVES BY THE GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY.

8           (c) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

9           (1) ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR PRIORITIZING THE  
10 INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC SHUTOFF AND REMOTE CONTROLLED  
11 SECTIONALIZED BLOCK VALVES;

12           (2) ENSURE THAT AUTOMATIC SHUTOFF AND REMOTE  
13 CONTROLLED SECTIONALIZED BLOCK VALVES ARE INSTALLED AS QUICKLY AS IS  
14 REASONABLY POSSIBLE; AND

15           (3) ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING EACH GAS  
16 TRANSMISSION COMPANY'S PROGRESS IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
17 THIS SECTION.

18 **15-103.**

19           (A) (1) MEMA SHALL ESTABLISH EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
20 STANDARDS FOR GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANIES THAT OWN OR OPERATE GAS  
21 PIPELINES WITHIN THE STATE.

22           (2) IN ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARDS UNDER  
23 THIS SUBSECTION, MEMA SHALL CONSULT WITH:

24                   (I) THE COMMISSION;

25                   (II) THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL; AND

26                   (III) MEMBERS OF THE FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNITY,  
27 INCLUDING THE MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION.

28           (B) (1) MEMA SHALL REQUIRE A GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY TO  
29 DEVELOP AND SUBMIT TO BOTH MEMA AND THE COMMISSION AN EMERGENCY

1 RESPONSE PLAN THAT MEETS, AT A MINIMUM, THE FEDERAL STANDARDS IN  
2 TITLE 49, C.F.R. PART 192.

3 (2) MEMA SHALL REVIEW THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN OF  
4 A GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY AND SHALL REQUIRE THE GAS TRANSMISSION  
5 COMPANY TO AMEND OR UPDATE THE PLAN AS MEMA DETERMINES  
6 NECESSARY TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY.

7 (C) AT LEAST ONCE EACH YEAR, A GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY SHALL  
8 MEET WITH EACH LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT THAT HAS FIRE SUPPRESSION  
9 RESPONSIBILITIES IN AN AREA WHERE A GAS PIPELINE OWNED AND OPERATED  
10 BY THE GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY IS LOCATED, TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW  
11 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS.

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