

S 141

Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2001

**Congress:** 107 (2001–2003, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Transportation and Public Works

**Introduced:** Jan 22, 2001

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure)  
**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S500-505) (Jan 22, 2001)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/senate-bill/141>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]  
**Party:** Republican • **State:** AZ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]	D · NM		Jan 22, 2001
Sen. Breaux, John B. [D-LA]	D · LA		Jan 22, 2001
Sen. Domenici, Pete V. [R-NM]	R · NM		Jan 22, 2001
Sen. Hollings, Ernest F. [D-SC]	D · SC		Jan 22, 2001
Sen. Hutchison, Kay Bailey [R-TX]	R · TX		Jan 22, 2001
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jan 22, 2001
Sen. Brownback, Sam [R-KS]	R · KS		Jan 29, 2001

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 22, 2001

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
107 HR 3609	Related bill	<b>Dec 17, 2002:</b> Became Public Law No: 107-355.
107 HR 459	Related bill	<b>Mar 14, 2001:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Chairman.
107 S 235	Identical bill	<b>Mar 14, 2001:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Chairman.
107 S 299	Related bill	<b>Feb 8, 2001:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2001 - Directs the Secretary of Transportation to implement the oil and gas pipeline safety improvement recommendations in the Department of Transportation (DOT) Inspector General's Report (RT-2000-069).

Requires each operator of a natural gas transmission pipeline and of a hazardous liquid pipeline, or, in the case of an intrastate pipeline facility operator, the appropriate State regulatory agency, to submit to the Secretary a plan designed to enhance the qualifications of pipeline personnel and reduce the likelihood of accidents and injuries.

Amends Federal pipeline safety law to require the Secretary to issue regulations requiring operators of such pipelines to: (1) evaluate the risks to their pipeline facilities in environmentally sensitive areas and high-density population areas; and (2) adopt and implement a program for integrity management that reduces the risk of incident in those areas.

Revises the public education program requirements for gas pipeline facility owners or operators, including specified items. Applies such requirements to owners or operators of a hazardous liquid pipeline facility.

Requires an operator of a gas transmission or hazardous liquid pipeline facility to initiate and maintain liaison with the State emergency response commissions, and local emergency planning committees in the areas of pipeline right-of-way, established under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (or, in the absence of a committee, local fire, police, and other emergency response agencies) in each State in which it operates.

Increases from \$25,000 to \$500,000 the civil penalty for each facility operator failure to: (1) mark accurately the location of pipeline facilities in the vicinity of a demolition, excavation, tunneling, or construction; or (2) comply with safety standards, prepare and carry out an inspection and maintenance plan, allow access to records, or allow required entries or inspections. Increases the maximum civil penalty for a related series of violations from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

Authorizes the Secretary, if a State pipeline safety program certification is accepted, to make an agreement authorizing a State authority to: (1) participate in the oversight of interstate pipeline transportation, including a plan for the State authority to participate in special investigations involving incidents or new construction, as well as (subject to specified requirements) other activities involving interstate pipeline transportation; or (2) assume additional inspection or investigatory duties.

Requires any owner or operator of a hazardous liquid pipeline facility to report to the Secretary each release to the environment greater than five gallons of the hazardous liquid or carbon dioxide.

Requires the Secretary, as part of the DOT research and development program, to direct research attention to the development of alternative technologies: (1) to expand the defect detection capabilities of internal inspection devices; (2) to inspect pipelines that cannot accommodate internal inspection devices available on the date of enactment; and (3) to develop innovative techniques measuring the structural integrity of pipelines.

Sets forth whistle blower protections prohibiting discrimination by pipeline operators or contractors or subcontractors against employees who: (1) provide information, directly or indirectly, to the employer or the Federal Government about any alleged violation of Federal law or regulations relating to pipeline safety; (2) file a related Federal proceeding; or (3) testify or otherwise assist or participate in such a proceeding.

Directs the DOT Inspector General to analyze and report to specified congressional committees on whether DOT assessment of pipeline fines and penalties are an effective deterrent for reducing safety risks.

Authorizes the Secretary to study how best to preserve environmental resources in conjunction with maintaining pipeline rights-of-way.

### Actions Timeline

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- **Jan 22, 2001:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 22, 2001:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S414-415)
- **Jan 22, 2001:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S500-505)