

S 2299

PIPES Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Jul 25, 2019

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Aug 14, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2299>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]

Party: Republican • **State:** NE • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 25, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Feb 13, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2139	Related bill	Apr 9, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy.
116 S 1097	Related bill	Apr 9, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020 or the PIPES Act of 2020

TITLE I--IMPROVING PIPELINE SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE

This title addresses pipeline safety and infrastructure with respect to natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. It authorizes appropriations through FY2023 for specified pipelines safety programs under the Pipelines Safety Improvement Act of 2002 and related enactments.

Among other provisions, the title

- requires fees for compliance reviews of liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities;
- authorizes the establishment of limited safety-enhancing testing programs to evaluate innovative technologies and operation practices testing the safe operation of natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facilities;
- sets forth requirements for idled natural or other gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines;
- updates the standards for LNG facilities;
- establishes the National Center of Excellence for Liquefied Natural Gas Safety and Training to include a repository of information on best practices relating to LNG operations;
- requires advanced leak-detection technologies and practices that include a schedule for repairing or replacing each leaking pipe, except a pipe with a leak so small that it poses no potential hazard, with appropriate deadlines;
- directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to finalize a rule on gas gathering lines; and
- allows the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to use the Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, Colorado, for research and development relating to transportation safety improvements that will advance the safe and efficient transportation of hazardous materials and energy products.

TITLE II--LEONEL RONDON PIPELINE SAFETY ACT

Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act

This title addresses pipeline safety with respect to gas distribution systems.

Among other provisions, the title directs DOT to require

- each distribution integrity plan developed by an operator of a gas distribution pipeline to include the risks from the presence of cast iron pipes and mains and risks that may result from the operation of a low-pressure distribution system;
- operators to establish protocols for communicating with fire, police, and other relevant public officials after a disaster that includes fires, explosions, or one or more fatalities;
- procedural manuals for operations, maintenance, and emergencies to include certain written procedures;
- operators to identify and manage traceable, reliable, and complete, records that are critical to ensuring proper pressure control for a gas distribution system; and
- the development of standards that promote sufficient staffing for monitoring and regulating gas pressure levels by each operator.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 14, 2020:** Received in the House.
- **Aug 14, 2020:** Held at the desk.
- **Aug 11, 2020:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Aug 6, 2020:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S5348-5354)
- **Aug 6, 2020:** The committee substitute withdrawn by Unanimous Consent. (CR S5354)
- **Aug 6, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S5337-5345)
- **Aug 6, 2020:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S5337-5345)
- **Feb 13, 2020:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Wicker with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 116-217.
- **Feb 13, 2020:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 427.
- **Jul 31, 2019:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jul 25, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 25, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.