

## S 4523

Natural Gas Blowout Prevention, Oversight, and Liability Act of 2020

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Energy

**Introduced:** Aug 12, 2020

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Aug 12, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4523>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 12, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Energy

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## **Natural Gas Blowout Prevention, Oversight, and Liability Act of 2020**

This bill sets forth federal standards related to natural gas blowouts. A blowout is the loss of control of any well that leads to the release of combusted or uncombusted natural gas into the atmosphere.

Specifically, the bill

- requires operators of wells to report natural gas blowouts to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) within 72 hours after a blowout occurs;
- directs the EPA to establish and maintain a public database of all blowouts;
- imposes penalties for natural gas or flared natural gas that is released as a result of a well blowout, based on the volume released;
- establishes a grant program to reduce the scale and regularity of blowouts and the burden to states and local governments with respect to emergency responses to blowouts; and
- directs the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board to submit a report that describes each natural gas blowout from the past 10 years and includes recommendations to reduce the number of blowouts.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Aug 12, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 12, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.