

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2559**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan**

February 24, 2012

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An act to add Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 8070) to Division 4 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to natural gas pipelines.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2559, as introduced, Buchanan. Natural gas pipelines: pipeline integrity management.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including gas corporations, as defined. The Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 2011 designates the commission as the state authority responsible for regulating and enforcing intrastate gas pipeline transportation and pipeline facilities pursuant to federal law, including the development, submission, and administration of a state pipeline safety program certification for natural gas pipelines.

This bill would require the commission to ensure that a city, county, or city and county is provided notice by a gas corporation whenever a pipeline integrity management plan, as defined, may result in the gas corporation undertaking pipeline inspection, remediation, or replacement work within the city, county, or city and county, and the inspection, remediation, or replacement work within that city, county, or city and county and that work is likely to require action by the city, county, or city and county to approve or facilitate the work. The bill would require that the city, county, or city and county that has been provided with notice expedite any permitting or other actions necessary to complete any pipeline inspection, remediation, or replacement work within the city, county, or city and county that is necessary pursuant to the pipeline

integrity management plan. By requiring a higher level of service by local governments that may be affected by work undertaken pursuant to a pipeline integrity management plan, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 8070) is  
2 added to Division 4 of the Public Utilities Code, to read:

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4 CHAPTER 5.5. NATURAL GAS PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

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6 8070. (a) For purposes of this section, “pipeline integrity  
7 management plan” means the written integrity management  
8 program prepared by a gas corporation to comply with the  
9 requirements adopted by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous  
10 Materials Safety Administration of the Department of  
11 Transportation pursuant to Subpart O (commencing with Section  
12 192.901) of Part 192 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

13 (b) The commission shall ensure that a city, county, or city and  
14 county is provided notice by a gas corporation whenever a pipeline  
15 integrity management plan may result in the gas corporation  
16 undertaking pipeline inspection, remediation, or replacement work  
17 within the city, county, or city and county, and the inspection,  
18 remediation, or replacement work is likely to require action by the  
19 city, county, or city and county to approve or facilitate the work.

20 (b) A city, county, or city and county that has been provided  
21 notice pursuant to subdivision (a) shall expedite any permitting or  
22 other actions necessary to complete any pipeline inspection,  
23 remediation, or replacement work within the city, county, or city

1 and county that is necessary pursuant to an approved pipeline  
2 integrity management plan.

3 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
4 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
5 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
6 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
7 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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