

The Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety (PIPES) Act of 2020

The PIPES Act of 2020 (S.2299) reauthorizes the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pipeline safety program through fiscal year 2023. This bill would provide for important advances in new safety technology and regulatory reform. Among other improvements, the bill would:

- provide greater resources to state and local pipeline safety officials;
- allow PHMSA to conduct pilot programs to evaluate innovative pipeline safety technologies;
- direct PHMSA to update its current regulations for large-scale liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities;
- establish a LNG Center of Excellence to promote and facilitate safety and technological advancements for LNG operations;
- improve due process protections in PHMSA enforcement proceedings;
- require PHMSA to review class location requirements;
- update regulations on pipeline operating status regarding idled pipelines; and
- provide greater Congressional oversight on pending PHMSA rulemakings.