

**SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY OF
H.R. _____, THE “PROTECTING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE OF PIPELINES
AND ENHANCING SAFETY ACT OF 2016” (PIPES ACT)**

*Prepared by Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Democratic Staff
April 14, 2016*

Section 1. Short Title; Table of Contents; References. This section designates the Act as the “Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2016” (PIPES Act).

Sec. 2. Authorization of Appropriations. This section authorizes \$696 million over four years (FY2016 – FY2019) for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration’s (PHMSA) gas and hazardous liquid pipeline safety program and the agency’s administrative expenses. These authorization levels are equal to Congressional Budget Office baseline funding levels. This section provides \$608 million for the pipeline safety program, including \$211 million in grants to States over the four-year period. It also includes \$6 million for pipeline safety information grants to communities.

Sec. 3. Failure of PHMSA to Implement Statutory Mandates. This section requires the Inspector General (IG) of the Department of Transportation (DOT) to submit within 45 days to Congress a list of outstanding statutory mandates that PHMSA has not implemented. This section also requires the Secretary of Transportation to submit to Congress reports (every 60 days) on actions taken to implement outstanding mandates.

Sec. 4. Natural Gas Integrity Management Review. This section requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO), within 18 months of publication of PHMSA’s final rule titled “Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Transmission and Gathering Pipelines”, to submit to Congress a report of how natural gas integrity management programs have improved safety of natural gas transmission pipeline facilities.

Sec. 5. Hazardous Liquid Integrity Management Review. This section requires GAO, within 18 months of publication of PHMSA’s final rule titled “Pipeline Safety: Safety of Hazardous Liquid Pipelines”, to submit to Congress a report of how hazardous liquid pipeline facility integrity management programs have improved safety of hazardous liquid pipeline facilities.

Sec. 6. Technical Safety Standards Committees. This section requires the Secretary to fill all vacancies on the Technical Pipeline Safety Standard Committees within 90 days of the date of enactment. After that period, all vacancies must be filled within 60 days.

Sec. 7. Inspection Report Information. This section requires PHMSA or certified state authorities performing pipeline inspections to provide a post-inspection briefing to the pipeline owner or operator within 90 days of the date of inspection.

Sec. 8. Improving Damage Prevention Technology. This section requires GAO to submit to Congress a report on the technology available to reduce pipeline damage caused by excavation.

Sec. 9. Workforce Management. This section requires the DOT IG to submit to Congress a review of PHMSA’s hiring challenges and recommendations to address resource needs.

Section 10. Information-Sharing System. This section requires DOT to convene a working group to consider the development of a voluntary information-sharing system to improve inspection feedback and pipeline integrity management.

Section 11. Nationwide Integrated Pipeline Safety Regulatory Database. This section establishes a nationwide integrated pipeline safety regulatory inspection database to improve communication and collaboration between PHMSA and State pipeline regulators. This provision was included in the President's FY2017 budget request.

Sec. 12. Underground Natural Gas Storage Facilities. This section requires the Secretary to issue minimum safety standards for underground natural gas storage facilities while allowing States to go above and beyond Federal regulations for regulating intrastate facilities. It also imposes a fee on operators of underground natural gas storage facilities to support the Federal underground natural gas storage safety program.

Sec. 13. Joint Inspection and Oversight. This section allows state inspection authorities to join PHMSA in the inspection of interstate pipeline facilities.

Sec. 14. Safety Data Sheets. This section requires oil pipeline operators to provide Federal and state investigators with Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) within six hours of an oil spill to provide greater information for emergency response.

Sec. 15. Hazardous Materials Identification Numbers. This section requires the Secretary to issue an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking to take comments on an October 25, 2015 petition for rulemaking about gasoline and diesel placards.

Sec. 16. Emergency Order Authority. This section authorizes the Secretary to impose certain emergency restrictions and safety measures on pipeline operators to address an imminent hazard resulting from an incident or an unsafe practice.

Sec. 17. State Grant Funds. This section authorizes the Secretary to withhold grant funds from a State if it is not satisfactorily carrying out the terms of the grant agreement. It also allows the Secretary to repurpose from de-certified State safety programs to carry out pipeline safety activities for that State.

Sec. 18. Response Plans. This section requires oil spill response plans to consider the impact of a discharge into navigable waters and adjoining shorelines, including those covered by ice.

Sec. 19. High Consequence Areas. This section explicitly states that the Great Lakes and marine coastal waters are high-consequence areas (HCAs). Pipeline operators are required to regularly inspect and make repairs to pipelines in HCAs.

Sec. 20. Pipeline Safety Technical Assistance Grants. This section requires the DOT IG to submit a report to Congress evaluating compliance and oversight of PHMSA's Technical Assistance Grants.

Sec. 21. Study of Materials and Corrosion Prevention in Pipeline Transportation. This section requires GAO to submit to Congress a report on materials and corrosion prevention technologies used in pipeline transportation.