



Pipeline Bills in the Pennsylvania Legislature *2019-2020 Legislative Session*

Senate Bills:

Senate Bill 257 (Dinniman, Killion) – Regulation of Land Agents: Holds pipeline land agents accountable by defining their role and requiring registration with the Pennsylvania Real Estate Commission. In addition, the bill calls for allowing public access to a listing of registered agents, requiring criminal history background checks, and providing the commission with the authority to revoke or suspend them for reasons such as fraud or misrepresentation.

Currently in Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

**Approved by committee last session.*

Senate Bill 258 (Dinniman, Killion) – Pipeline Emergency Notification: Requires public utility facilities transporting natural gas or natural gas liquids to meet with the county emergency coordinator entrusted to respond in the event of natural gas release and provide vital emergency response and evacuation information.

Currently in Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

**Approved by committee last session. ** Governor has expressed support.*

Senate Bill 259 (Dinniman) – Landowners Bill of Rights: Addresses the issue of eminent domain by requiring the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office to prepare a written statement that includes a bill of rights for a property owner whose real property may be acquired by a governmental or private entity through the use of the entity's eminent domain authority.

Currently in Senate Judiciary Committee.

**Approved by committee last session.*

Senate Bill 260 (Dinniman, Killion) – Pipelines Located Near Schools: Outlines types of information that pipeline operators must share with schools that fall within 1,000 ft of hazardous liquids and natural gas pipelines, including how to respond to a leak. Currently, pipeline operators are not required to provide this information

Currently in Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

** Governor has expressed support.*

Senate Bill 261 (Dinniman, Killion)– Pipeline Emergency Response Fund: Authorizes counties to levy a fee on pipelines to fund increased emergency response services and related expenses, such as training, equipment, and planning. If the county does not enact an ordinance, each municipality in the county is authorized to impose the fee on the pipelines in the county. The funding is distributed only to those counties or municipalities based on the total distance of pipelines in each county or municipality.

Currently in Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Senate Bill 262 (Dinniman, Killion) – Pipeline Siting Review: Prior to the new construction of pipelines or pipeline construction projects, a public utility shall submit an application to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) for authorization regarding the siting of the pipeline to be constructed in order to meet safety and environmental metrics, such as land use, soil/sedimentation, plant/wildlife habitats, terrain, hydrology, landscape, etc. It also requires consultation with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the local governing body of a county and the local emergency management organization coordinators in evaluating each metric, and at least two public hearings in each county in which the construction would take place.

Currently in Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

** Governor has expressed support.*

Senate Bill 263 (Dinniman, Killion) – Pipeline Safety Valves: Calls for incorporating automatic or remote shutoff valves on pipelines that impact high consequence areas throughout Pennsylvania.

Currently in Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

**Approved by committee last session. ** Governor has expressed support.*

Senate Bill 264 (Dinniman) – Local Taxation of Pipelines: Legislation will make natural gas and hazardous-liquid transmission pipelines subject to taxation by local governments, including school districts.

Currently in Senate Finance Committee.

Senate Bill 280 (Killion, Dinniman) Pipeline Safety – Mandatory Study Requirement: Requires pipeline operators to conduct proper studies and hydrological investigations of aquifers that may be potentially impacted by pipeline construction.

Currently in Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Senate Bill 281 (Killion, Dinniman) – Pipeline Safety – Notification Requirements: Requires pipeline companies to provide notification to residents, municipalities and other applicable parties affected by drilling at least five days in advance of the initiation of any project.

Currently in Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Senate Bill 282 (Killion, Dinniman) – Pipeline Impact Fee: Establishes a pipeline impact fee calculated based on the acreage of linear feet plus right-of-way width of a pipeline using the county average land value in an affected area. The funds would be collected by the PUC and

deposited into a Pipeline Impact Fund where they would be distributed to the counties and municipalities impacted.

Currently in Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

Senate Bill 283 (Killion, Dinniman) – Pipeline Safety Inspection (Killion, Dinniman):

Centralizes pipeline safety inspection within the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and requires PennDOT to apply to the federal government for designation as an Interstate Agent in the inspection of interstate pipelines traversing Pennsylvania.

Currently in Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Senate Bill 40 (Schwank) – Pipeline Water Resources Protection Act: Imposes a rebuttable presumption of liability on owners and operators of pipelines under state jurisdiction when pollution, diminution, or loss of water occurs at a public or private water supply, including wells, within 2,500 feet of the pipeline. An operator presumed to be responsible for harming a public or private water supply would be required to restore or replace the quantity and quality of the supply if it does not successfully rebut the presumption.

Currently in Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee.

Hazardous Liquid Pipelines Moratorium Act (Dinniman): Restricts the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection from permitting and licensing any hazardous liquids pipelines in the Commonwealth for the next two years.

Awaiting bill number and formal introduction.

Moratorium: Pipeline Eminent Domain (Dinniman): Restricts the eminent domain authority of hazardous liquids pipeline projects for the next two years.

Awaiting bill number and formal introduction.

Pipeline Safety Monitoring and Reporting (Dinniman): Requires the use of fiberoptic SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition systems) on pipelines to monitor potential risks to public safety and alert appropriate state and local agencies. Fiber-optic strands can detect pressure changes or vibrations that could indicate a leak or an impact to a pipeline and, within seconds, transmit that threat to a remote monitoring station and trained pipeline operations team. While some pipeline operators currently use this technology to enhance safety and efficiency by monitoring and transmitting this critical information, they are currently not required to immediately notify PUC or emergency management in the counties where the threat was recorded.

Awaiting bill number and formal introduction.

Pipeline Safety and Advanced Leak Detection (Killion, Dinniman): Requires Pennsylvania and the DEP to develop clear permit conditions and siting guidelines to increase the focus on pipeline safety and pipeline infrastructure siting to reduce the dangers of improper siting, improper safety management and wasted resources.

Co-sponsorship memo circulating. Awaiting bill number and formal introduction.

Establishing a Commission to Study Pipeline Construction and Operations (Killion, Dinniman): Establishes a special bipartisan legislative commission to recommend safety, oversight and interagency coordination improvements for the transport of oil, natural gas and other hazardous liquids through pipelines in this Commonwealth.
Co-sponsorship memo circulating. Awaiting bill number and formal introduction.

House Bills:

House Bill 187 (Quinn) – **Pipeline Impact Fee:** Directs the Office of the Attorney General to create a Landowner Bill of Rights in which the rights of property owners in cases of eminent domain are condensed.
Currently in House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

House Bill 188 (Quinn) – **Landowners Bill of Rights:** Directs the Office of the Attorney General to create a Landowner Bill of Rights in which the rights of property owners in cases of eminent domain are condensed into one document for easy access and public consumption.
Currently in House Local Government Committee.

Pipeline Safety and Communications Board (Quinn, Comitta): Legislation will establish a state board responsible for considering the overarching issue of public safety and for implementing and coordinating the timely communication of information regarding pipeline activities in the Commonwealth. In addition, the board would be responsible for coordinating communications relating to pipeline activities with federal, state, and local government agencies; regulatory authorities; pipeline companies; and the public. The board created under this legislation would be comprised of appointed representatives of the Public Utility Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, Emergency Management Agency, legislative leaders, governor’s office, local government and natural gas industry.
Co-sponsorship memo circulating. Awaiting bill number and formal introduction.

Eminent Domain for Public Utility Pipelines (Quinn, Comitta): This legislation would provide an added protection for Pennsylvania residents by providing oversight of the eminent domain process used by public utility corporations for pipeline construction. Specifically, this legislation would prohibit petroleum or petroleum product transportation lines from being located within 100 meters of a “dwelling house” that is not located within the limits of any street, highway, water, or other public way or place. In addition, this legislation would require public utility corporations to receive approval from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission before using eminent domain to obtain property for the purpose of constructing a pipeline.
Co-sponsorship memo circulating. Awaiting bill number and formal introduction.