
DIGEST

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HB 549 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

McCormick

Abstract: Changes the definitions for "facility" and "owner or operator" under the Right-To-Know Law in order to make explicit that natural gas pipelines are to be treated as "facilities" under this law and are subject to its reporting requirements, rather than being treated as a "transport vehicle" and being subject to reporting requirements under provisions related to hazardous material transportation and motor carrier safety.

Present law defines the term "facility", as used in the Hazardous Material Information Development, Preparedness and Response Act (Right-to-Know Law), as the physical premises where hazardous materials are manufactured, used, or stored.

Present law, under the Right-To-Know Law and associated administrative rules, provides for the reporting of unauthorized releases from natural gas pipelines and establishes a reportable quantity of 1,000 pounds.

Proposed law retains present law, but articulates under the definition of "facility" that natural gas pipelines:

- (1) Are to be considered "facilities" under the Right-To-Know Law and subject to the reporting requirements under the Right-to-Know Law.
- (2) Are not to be treated as "transport vehicles" or subject to reporting requirements under the laws regarding hazardous materials transportation and motor carrier safety.

Present law defines "owner or operator", as used in the Right-to-Know Law, as a person or entity engaged in operations with hazardous materials "at" a facility. The present law definition of "facility" refers to an owner or operator's physical premises "in" which hazardous materials are handled. Proposed law modifies the definition of "owner or operator" under present law for consistency with the present law definition of "facility", as well as the proposed law definition of "facility" inclusive of pipelines, by referring to hazardous materials "in" a facility rather than "at" a facility.

(Amends R.S. 30:2363(7) and (13))