

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB385

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| House of Origin | <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed |
| Second House | <input type="checkbox"/> In Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute | <input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled |

2. Patron: McPike

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: Projects presenting material risk to public safety; licensed professional engineers; regulations.

5. Summary: Directs the State Corporation Commission (Commission) to promulgate regulations requiring that a licensed professional engineer exercise responsible charge over engineering projects that (i) involve gas pipeline facilities, as defined in the federal regulations, as amended and adopted by the State Corporation Commission, and the federal pipeline safety laws, and may present a material risk to public safety. That in conjunction with promulgating the regulations as created by this bill, the Commission shall convene a stakeholder group that includes representatives of natural gas utilities in the Commonwealth. The Commission shall direct the stakeholder group to develop and propose to the Commission recommendations concerning such regulations no later than December 1, 2020. That in conjunction with promulgating the regulations as created by this bill, the Commission shall determine the extent to which engineering projects involving gas pipeline facilities present a material risk to public safety and thereby require the seal of a professional engineer. In making its determination, the Commission shall consider solutions that other states and the natural gas industry have proposed or used in addressing such risks and any other information it deems relevant. The Commission shall evaluate (i) the installation of new or replacement transmission class pipelines, distribution mains, distribution services, points of delivery, and district regulator stations; (ii) projects that involve a change in system pressure; (iii) any other projects that may present a material risk to public safety; and (iv) alternative procedures for emergency work. Also provides that the provisions of the first enactment of the bill shall become effective January 1, 2021.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, and any impact to the State Corporation Commission can be absorbed within existing resources.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation; State Corporation Commission.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.