

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.H.B. 1611
By: Turner, Bob (Shapiro)
Education
5-16-97
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST

Currently, school districts are not required to perform annual pressure tests on their natural gas piping systems, although the Railroad Commission does monitor school campuses for leakage. This bill requires school districts to perform annual pressure tests on their natural gas piping systems.

PURPOSE

As proposed, C.S.H.B. 1611 sets forth provisions regarding the testing of natural gas piping systems in school district facilities.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Title 102, V.T.C.S., by adding Article 6053-2a, as follows:

Art. 6053-2a. TESTING OF NATURAL GAS PIPING SYSTEMS IN SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

Sec. 1. Requires each school district to pressure test the natural gas piping system in each school district facility, at least every two years. Outlines pressure test cycles for certain school district facilities. Sets forth requirements for the test and subsequent inspection of the natural gas piping systems in school districts.

Sec. 2. Requires each school district to provide a written notice to the district's natural gas supplier (supplier) which contains certain information. Requires the supplier to maintain a copy of the notice for a certain period of time. Requires the supplier to terminate service to a school district facility under certain circumstances. Requires an identified natural gas leakage in a school district facility to be reported to the board of trustees of the district in which the facility is located. Defines "supplier." Requires the Railroad Commission of Texas to enforce this article.

SECTION 2. Requires the school district to perform the tests or other inspections of natural gas piping systems either before the beginning of the 1997-1998 school year or as soon as practicable thereafter. Prohibits a supplier from terminating service to a school district facility in certain circumstances.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

SECTION 1.

Amends Title 102, V.T.C.S., by adding Article 6053-2a, as follows:

Sec. 1. Requires each school district to pressure test the natural gas piping system in each school district facility at least every two years. Outlines pressure testing cycles for school district facilities.

Sec. 2. Requires the school district to provide certain notification to the district's natural gas supplier, rather than company supplying natural gas. Requires an identified natural gas leakage in a school district facility to be reported to the board of trustees of the district in which the facility is located. Redefines "supplier." Requires the Railroad Commission of Texas to enforce this article. Makes conforming and nonsubstantive changes.