

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1952**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Diana DiZoglio***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act relative to gas leaks and infrastructure.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>2/4/2019</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/4/2019</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1952**

By Ms. DiZoglio, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1952) of Diana DiZoglio, Steven S. Howitt, Patrick M. O'Connor, Jason M. Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to gas leaks and infrastructure. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to gas leaks and infrastructure.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1: Chapter 164 of the General Laws Section 144 shall be amended as follows:

2 (b)

3 (2) amend “whenever appropriate and feasible, a gas company shall...” to “Gas  
4 companies shall, immediately, notify the fire department and chief law enforcement officer...”

5 (3) insert after a Grade 2 leak... prior to “The gas company...” insert Grade 2 leaks shall  
6 be reported as soon as feasible, but at a minimum monthly to the local fire department and chief  
7 law enforcement officer...

8 (4) insert at end of paragraph: Grade 3 leaks shall monthly be reported

9 (5) The utility, local fire and local police departments shall all generate reports related to  
10 each event including the time, date, location including specific address where available or clearly  
11 identifiable location where no street address exists. These reports shall indicate the individual

12 who responded to the event and steps taken to mitigate if any. Any cost related to the  
13 compilation, distribution, and maintenance of this information shall be borne by the gas  
14 company.

15 (c) add at end: In the event that the gas company is responsible for any significant project  
16 on a public way, the gas company shall repair the site pursuant to all current codes and at the  
17 expense of the gas company. The gas company shall monitor, maintain, and bear responsibility  
18 to repair the site for a minimum of five years.

19 (e) add at end: These reports shall be made available to the public and shall be posted on  
20 the website used by the gas company and on the department website.

21 Add subsection

22 (g) annually, or more frequently if the department deems appropriate, the department  
23 shall review the number of certified pipeline inspectors to ensure that the sufficient number of  
24 inspectors are actively engaged in pipeline inspection throughout the commonwealth.

25 (h) Failure to comply with any provision of this section shall be a factor for the  
26 department to consider negatively to deny or reduce a utility's request for a rate increase.

27 (i) The department is authorized to establish and enforce financial penalties for  
28 failure to comply with any provision.