

SENATE No. 2163

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>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/14/2021</i>

SENATE No. 2163

By Ms. DiZoglio, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2163) of Diana DiZoglio for legislation relative to gas leaks and infrastructure. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1952 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

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.