

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require the use of advanced leak detection technology for pipelines, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. UDALL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## **A BILL**

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require the use of advanced leak detection technology for pipelines, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. LEAK DETECTION REQUIREMENTS AND METH-**  
4 **ANE EMISSIONS FROM PIPELINES.**

5 (a) LEAK DETECTION REQUIREMENTS.—Section  
6 60109 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by add-  
7 ing at the end the following:

8 “(h) LEAK DETECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
10 after the date of enactment of this subsection, and

1 as part of the minimum standards for integrity man-  
2 agement programs for distribution pipelines under  
3 subsection (e), to the maximum extent practicable,  
4 operators of distribution pipelines shall use advanced  
5 leak detection technology described in paragraph (2).

6 “(2) ADVANCED LEAK DETECTION TECH-  
7 NOLOGY.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Advanced leak detec-  
9 tion technology referred to in paragraph (1) in-  
10 cludes—

11 “(i) a high sensitivity methane detec-  
12 tor mounted on a vehicle or aircraft, in-  
13 cluding a drone, equipped with Global Po-  
14 sitioning System technology, if that high  
15 sensitivity methane detector and Global  
16 Positioning System technology meet the  
17 minimum performance standards described  
18 in subparagraph (B); and

19 “(ii) any other technology or combina-  
20 tion of technologies that meet the min-  
21 imum performance standards described in  
22 subparagraph (B).

23 “(B) MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STAND-  
24 ARDS.—The high sensitivity methane detector  
25 and Global Positioning System technology re-

1           ferred to in subparagraph (A)(i) shall, at a  
2           minimum—

3                   “(i) collect latitude and longitude co-  
4                   ordinates and methane concentration data  
5                   simultaneously;

6                   “(ii) measure methane concentrations  
7                   in parts per billion; and

8                   “(iii) collect data points at a rate of  
9                   at least twice per second.

10           “(3) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year  
11           after the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
12           Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out  
13           this subsection.”.

14           (b) METHANE EMISSIONS FROM PIPELINES.—

15                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 601 of title 49,  
16           United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
17           end the following:

18           **“§ 60142. Methane emissions from pipelines**

19                   “(a) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent prac-  
20           ticable, the owner or operator of a pipeline facility shall—

21                   “(1) use the best available technology to cap-  
22                   ture natural gas when making repairs to the pipeline  
23                   facility;

24                   “(2) use the best available technology, includ-  
25           ing, as applicable, advanced leak detection tech-

1 nology described in section 60109(h)(2), to search  
2 for and identify leaks in the pipeline facility;

3 “(3) develop or participate in a replacement or  
4 repair program for pipeline facilities that—

5 “(A) are of a design, age, or material  
6 known to be leaky; or

7 “(B) are known to be leaky based on oper-  
8 ating history; and

9 “(4) report to the Secretary any event that in-  
10 volves a release of gas from a pipeline facility that  
11 results in an unintentional estimated gas loss of  
12 50,000 cubic feet or more.

13 “(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the  
14 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pro-  
15 mulgate regulations to carry out this section.”.

16 (2) REPORTING THRESHOLD.—Not later than  
17 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
18 Secretary of Transportation shall amend section  
19 191.3 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to  
20 ensure that the quantity of unintentional estimated  
21 gas loss necessary to be considered an “incident”  
22 under that section is 50,000 cubic feet or more.

23 (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
24 tions for chapter 601 of title 49, United States

- 1 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating
- 2 to section 60141 the following:

“60142. Methane emissions from pipelines.”