

NEW TITLE: An Act to Require Utilities to Monitor for Natural Gas Leaks

Amend section 1 of the bill as follows:

§4713. Monitoring of natural gas meters leaks

1. Utilities to monitor meters for natural gas leaks. A gas utility shall monitor its natural gas system, including every natural gas main and meter under its jurisdiction annually for leaks. Each gas utility shall and provide a report annually on a triennial basis to the commission and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters on the number of leaks identified under this section and any action taken by the utility to address the leaks. The report must include a comprehensive review of the entire service area of the gas utility while protecting individually identifying customer information. The commission shall contract a qualified impartial 3rd party to periodically assess utility compliance with this section in a frequency determined by the commission.

2. Rules. The commission shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

This amendment amends the bill to direct gas utilities to monitor the utilities' gas systems, including gas mains and meters, annually for natural gas leaks. It requires each gas utility to file a report regarding its monitoring with the Public Utilities Commission and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters, instead of an annual report solely with the commission. The report must include a comprehensive review of the entire service area of the gas utility, including the number of leaks identified and action taken to address the leaks. The gas utility, in providing information in the report, must protect individually identifying customer information. The bill requires the commission to periodically assess utility compliance with the monitoring and reporting requirements and does not require the commission to contract with a 3rd party for such assessments.