

HB 1636 -- Natural Gas Safety Penalties

Sponsor: Jones (117)

This bill creates penalties for corporations, persons, and public utilities that violate any law, order, decision, decree, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the Missouri Public Service Commission relating to federally mandated natural gas safety standards. Municipalities that own gas plants are only liable for violations of natural gas safety laws, rules, and orders.

The maximum penalty per violation will be \$25,000, and the maximum penalty for multiple violations or a continuing violation of the same rule will be \$250,000; beginning January 1, 2015, the maximum penalties will be \$30,000 and \$300,000; beginning January 1, 2025, the maximum penalties will be \$35,000 and \$350,000; beginning January 1, 2035, the maximum penalties will be \$40,000 and \$400,000; and beginning January 1, 2040, the maximum penalties will be \$50,000 and \$500,000.

In determining penalty amounts, the commission may consider the degree of culpability, prior violations, the effect of the penalty on operations, good faith efforts at compliance, ability to pay, and any other matters deemed relevant.

The acts and omissions of officers, agents, and employees of any corporation, person, public utility, or other owner of a gas plant will be considered the acts or omissions of the gas plant owner.