

SENATE, No. 1919

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 20, 1997

By Senator ADLER

1 AN ACT concerning gas companies and supplementing chapter 9 of  
2 Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule or regulation to  
8 the contrary, the Board of Public Utilities (hereinafter, "board") shall  
9 require every gas company organized under the laws of this State to  
10 install excess flow valves on every new and every replaced gas service  
11 line where operating conditions of the service line are compatible with  
12 the use of commercially available excess flow valves.

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14 2. The board shall promulgate, in accordance with the  
15 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
16 seq.), rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate the  
17 purposes of this act.

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19 3. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after enactment, but  
20 the board may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance  
21 as shall be necessary for the implementation of the act.

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STATEMENT

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26 This bill would require natural gas companies that are regulated by  
27 the Board of Public Utilities to install excess flow valves on every new  
28 and every replaced gas service line when operating conditions of the  
29 service line are compatible with the use of commercially available  
30 excess flow valves.

31 The National Transportation Safety Board ("NTSB") recently  
32 issued a safety recommendation to all states and the District of  
33 Columbia to require gas distribution operators to install excess flow  
34 valves in all new or replaced gas service lines, when operating  
35 conditions of the service line are compatible with the use of  
36 commercially available valves. The NTSB noted that its investigation  
37 yielded strong evidence of the need to require that there be a way to

1 quickly shut off the flow of gas to a damaged pipe segment. The  
2 NTSB added that while the ability to shut off the flow of gas quickly  
3 would not prevent accidents, it would significantly reduce their  
4 consequences.

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9 Requires gas utilities to install excess flow valves under certain  
10 conditions.