

# S.2166/H.3323 - An Act relative to ensuring gas safety and consumer fairness

*Senate Sponsor: State Senator Jamie Eldridge*

## SUMMARY

This bill would strengthen the state law concerning the repair of gas leaks, including leaks near school zones. It would **require more transparency from the Department of Public Utilities and gas companies regarding leaks** and disallow companies from charging ratepayers for lost and unaccounted for gas.



## BILL HIGHLIGHTS

- Prohibits gas companies from charging ratepayers for lost and unaccounted gas by January 1, 2023.
- Requires Grade 2 leaks to be repaired within 6 months, and Grade 3 leaks on a set schedule.
- Requires more transparency from the Department of Public Utilities and gas companies .



## WHY THIS BILL MATTERS

From 2000-2011, **Massachusetts residents paid about \$1.5 billion for gas they never used due to leaks.** Not only do gas leaks pose severe health risks to humans, but they also add significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and cost ratepayers. This bill would prevent these effects by strengthening state law surrounding gas leaks, ensuring that ratepayers are not charged for gas they do not use and that gas leaks are stopped early before they can harm the surrounding community and environment.

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