

§4516-A. Administrative penalty

1. Violation of this Title. The commission may impose an administrative penalty on a natural gas pipeline utility that violates any provision of this Title relating to safety of pipeline facilities or transportation of gas or any rule issued under this Title in an amount not to exceed the administrative penalty adopted by the commission by rule, which may not exceed the administrative penalty established in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 190.223, as amended, for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

[PL 2025, c. 110, §6 (AMD).]

2. Maximum administrative penalty. The maximum administrative penalty for any related series of violations may not exceed the maximum administrative penalty adopted by the commission by rule, which may not exceed the maximum administrative penalty established in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 190.223, as amended.

[PL 2025, c. 110, §7 (AMD).]

3. Determining amount of penalty. In determining the amount of the penalty, the commission shall consider the following:

- A. The nature, circumstances and gravity of the violation; [PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]
- B. The degree of the natural gas pipeline utility's culpability; [PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]
- C. The natural gas pipeline utility's history of prior offenses; [PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]
- D. The natural gas pipeline utility's ability to pay; [PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]
- E. Any good faith by the natural gas pipeline utility in attempting to achieve compliance; [PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]
- F. The effect on the natural gas pipeline utility's ability to continue in business; and [PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]
- G. Such other matters as justice may require. [PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]

[PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]

4. Payment of penalty. The amount of the administrative penalty may be:

- A. Deducted from any sums owing by the State to the natural gas pipeline utility; or [PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]
- B. Recovered in a civil action in the state courts. [PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]

[PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]

5. Limitation on imposing penalty. Any action that may result in the imposition of an administrative penalty pursuant to this section must be commenced within 5 years after the cause of action accrues.

[PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 505, §35 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 495, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 318, §§15, 16 (AMD). PL 2025, c. 110, §§6, 7 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Special Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2025. The text

is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.
--