

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 175

(Senators Lewis Young and Brooks)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Environment and Transportation

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**Public Safety - Fuel Gas Piping Systems and Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing -  
Prohibitions and Study**

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This bill prohibits the sale, transfer, or distribution of nonconductive jacketed corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST). It also prohibits the use of nonconductive jacketed CSST in (1) the new construction of a customer-owned natural gas or liquefied propane piping system in a building; (2) a natural gas or liquefied propane piping system in a renovated property, under specified conditions; or (3) a natural gas or liquefied propane piping system that requires the addition of a new gas line to the piping system. A person who violates either of the bill's prohibitions is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000. The bill also requires the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) to study the prevention of fire hazards associated with commonly used CSST; related reporting requirements are established. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2025.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** No effect on total capital construction spending, which is established annually through the capital budget process. However, the cost of some State renovation projects may increase due to the bill's prohibitions. To the extent that the cost of individual projects increases, less funding is available for other projects. MD Labor can complete the required studies with existing resources. Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provision.

**Local Effect:** No effect on total capital construction spending for local governments. However, the cost of some local government renovation projects may increase due to the bill's prohibitions. To the extent that the cost of individual projects increases, less funding is available for other projects. No effect on revenues.

**Small Business Effect:** Meaningful.

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## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** MD Labor, in collaboration with the State Fire Prevention Commission (SFPC), the State Fire Marshal, and local inspectors, must study the prevention of fire hazards associated with commonly used CSST and other fuel gas piping systems in residential and commercial buildings.

MD Labor must (1) study the fire hazards created by different types of CSST in comparison to other fuel gas piping systems used in residential buildings; (2) study the likelihood of CSST or other fuel gas piping systems causing a fire in a residential or commercial building following a direct or indirect lightning strike; (3) make recommendations regarding the standards and requirements necessary for CSST and other fuel gas piping systems to prevent or minimize the risk of fire in such buildings, including regulatory or legislative measures; (4) make recommendations regarding any standards and requirements necessary to address aggravating factors that may reasonably contribute to the failure or malfunctioning of CSST or other fuel gas piping systems, such as improper installation, maintenance, or grounding; (5) assess the availability of testing facilities to determine whether CSST and other fuel gas piping systems are able to withstand lightning strikes or electrical arcing; (6) assess the feasibility of implementing the standards and requirements recommended pursuant to the above requirements; (7) analyze the prevalence of nonconductive jacketed CSST in residential and commercial buildings and the fire hazard presented; and (8) consult with specified subject matter experts.

By December 1, 2025, MD Labor must submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, and the House Environment and Transportation Committee. By September 30, 2026, MD Labor must submit its final report to the same entities.

### **Current Law:**

#### *Natural Gas and Liquefied Propane Piping Systems in Construction*

Chapter 140 of 2022 established that, for any building using fuel gas piping systems not subject to Title 49, Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations, non-arc-resistant jacketed corrugated stainless steel tubing may not be used in (1) the new construction of a customer-owned natural gas or liquefied propane piping system in a building; (2) a natural gas or liquefied propane piping system in a renovated property if the renovation affects more than 50% of the total square footage of the property; or (3) a natural gas or liquefied propane piping system that requires the addition of a new gas line to the gas piping system.

## *Regulation of Gas Lines – Generally*

The Board of Plumbers within MD Labor incorporates by reference the 2018 International Fuel and Gas Code (IFGC) in regulation. Title 49, Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations specifies the minimum federal safety standards for gas pipeline facilities and the transportation of natural and other gas by pipeline. Both the IFGC and federal regulations include standards for the installation and maintenance of gas piping systems.

**State/Local Fiscal Effect:** The bill’s prohibition on the use of nonconductive jacketed CSST for any renovation that affects at least 50% of a building’s total square footage may increase the cost of some renovation projects. Under the bill, any renovation that affects at least 50% of the total square footage must replace all piping in the building, which may involve more demolition and installation of new piping than would otherwise be done. Projects of that scope may already plan to replace all piping, so not all projects are affected. However, to the extent that they are affected, the cost of such renovations may increase substantially to install new piping not required under current law.

General fund revenues may increase minimally due to the bill’s penalty provision for cases heard in the District Court.

Enforcement activities by local governments can be incorporated into existing building inspections using existing budgeted resources.

The Department of State Police advises that SFPC and the State Fire Marshal can collaborate with MD Labor in conducting the required studies using existing resources. It is also assumed that local inspectors can collaborate with MD Labor using existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** As the bill prohibits the sale, transfer, or distribution of nonconductive jacketed CSST and the use of nonconductive jacketed CSST in specified projects, any small business that sells, transfers, distributes, installs, or uses nonconductive jacketed CSST in violation of the bill’s prohibitions could be significantly affected.

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## **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 586 and HB 503 of 2024.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 222 (Delegate Stein, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, and Frederick counties; Maryland Association of Counties; cities of Frederick and Havre de Grace; Maryland Municipal League; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Interagency Commission on School Construction; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Public Service Commission; Maryland Stadium Authority; International Code Council; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 24, 2025  
rh/mcr Third Reader - March 24, 2025  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 24, 2025

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