

CHAPTER 249**(HB 308)**

AN ACT relating to public utilities.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 278.495 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) As used in this section, "master meter system" means a pipeline system for distributing gas within a definable area, such as, but not limited to, a mobile home park, housing project, or apartment complex, where the operator purchases metered gas from an outside source for resale through a gas distribution pipeline system. The gas distribution pipeline system supplies the ultimate consumer, who either purchases the gas directly through a meter or by other means, such as through rents.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commission shall have the authority to regulate the safety of natural gas facilities which are:
 - (a) Owned or operated by any public utility, county, or city, and used to distribute natural gas at retail; or
 - (b) Comprising a master meter system.

The commission may exercise this authority in conjunction with, and pursuant to, its authority to enforce *any minimum safety standard adopted by the United States Department of Transportation pursuant to 49 U.S.C. sec. 60101 et. seq., or any amendments thereto*~~[the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968]~~, and may promulgate administrative regulations consistent with *federal pipeline safety laws*~~[that Act]~~ in accordance with provisions of KRS Chapter 13A as are necessary to promote pipeline safety in the Commonwealth. In exercising this authority, however, the commission shall consider the impact of any action it takes on small businesses engaged in the installation and servicing of gas lines, master meter systems, or related equipment and shall act so as to assure that no unfair competitive advantage is given to utilities over such small businesses. **Approved March 30, 2000**

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