

**House File 196 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 196  
BY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 50)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act increasing civil penalties applicable to specified  
2 pipeline safety violations.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 479.31, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code  
2 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3 A person who violates this chapter or any rule or order  
4 issued pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to a civil  
5 penalty levied by the board not to exceed ~~ten~~ one hundred  
6 thousand dollars for each violation. Each day that the  
7 violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.  
8 However, the maximum civil penalty shall not exceed ~~five~~  
9 ~~hundred thousand~~ one million dollars for any related series of  
10 violations. Civil penalties collected pursuant to this section  
11 shall be credited to and are appropriated for the Iowa energy  
12 center created in section 266.39C.

13

EXPLANATION

14 This bill increases civil penalties applicable to violations  
15 of Code chapter 479, relating to pipelines and underground  
16 gas storage. Currently, violations of the Code chapter, or  
17 an administrative rule or order relating to the Code chapter,  
18 are subject to a civil penalty levied by the Iowa utilities  
19 board not to exceed \$10,000 per violation, subject to a  
20 \$500,000 maximum. The bill increases these limits to \$100,000  
21 and \$1 million, respectively. Civil penalties collected for  
22 violations of the Code chapter are credited to and appropriated  
23 for the Iowa energy center created in Code section 266.39C.