

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1557

4
5 By: Representatives Murdock, F. Allen, Ennett, K. Ferguson, V. Flowers, M. Hodges, Love, Nicks,
6 Richardson, Scott, Springer
7 By: Senators L. Chesterfield, Elliott, S. Flowers

For An Act To Be Entitled

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10 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO HAVE AN
11 EMERGENCY PLAN IN PLACE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
12 DISABILITIES OR THE ELDERLY DURING CERTAIN WEATHER
13 EVENTS; TO REQUIRE AN ELECTRIC UTILITY TO DIRECTLY
14 NOTIFY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF PLANNED POWER OUTAGES AND
15 OTHER EMERGENCY MEASURES TO REDUCE ENERGY
16 CONSUMPTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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20 TO REQUIRE ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO HAVE AN
21 EMERGENCY PLAN IN PLACE DURING CERTAIN
22 WEATHER EVENTS; AND TO REQUIRE AN
23 ELECTRIC UTILITY TO DIRECTLY NOTIFY LOCAL
24 GOVERNMENTS OF CERTAIN EMERGENCY MEASURES
25 TO REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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30 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 18, Subchapter 1, is
31 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

32 23-18-110. Planned power outages and other emergency measures to
33 reduce energy consumption – Notice requirements – Definitions.

34 (a) As used in this section:

35 (1)(A) "Directly notify" means to cause notification to be
36 received within a reasonable time before a planned event.



1 (B) "Directly notify" does not include the use of social
 2 media;

3 (2) "Electric utility" means a public utility that:

4 (A) Is a municipally owned utility system;

5 (B) Is under the jurisdiction of the Arkansas Public
 6 Service Commission; and

7 (C) Transmits, generates, or distributes electricity to
 8 Arkansas residents;

9 (3) "Local government" means:

10 (A) A county;

11 (B) A city of the first class or city of the second class;

12 (C) An incorporated town; or

13 (D) Any other district or political subdivision or any
 14 board, commission, or agency of these political subdivisions; and

15 (4) "Multistate regulator" means an entity that participates in
 16 the regulation of the energy consumption of multiple states.

17 (b)(1) An electric utility shall have an emergency plan on file with
 18 the commission to establish emergency warming centers and other emergency
 19 mechanisms or tools during emergency weather events to protect the elderly
 20 and individuals with disabilities.

21 (2) An emergency plan described under subdivision (b)(1) of this
 22 section shall provide sufficient details concerning the number, location, and
 23 designated contact person for coordination of emergency warming centers.

24 (c) Before a multistate regulator and an electric utility implements a
 25 planned power outage or other emergency measure to reduce energy consumption,
 26 the multistate regulator and electric utility shall directly notify a local
 27 government that will be affected by the power outage or other emergency
 28 measure to reduce energy consumption.

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