



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Committee Bill No. 469**

LCO No. 5949



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:  
(ET)

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY  
AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND  
MINIMUM STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT LEVELS FOR ELECTRIC  
DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,  
2       "electric distribution company", "telecommunications company",  
3       "community antenna television company", "certificate of cable  
4       franchise authority" and "certified competitive video service provider"  
5       have the same meaning as provided in section 16-1 of the general  
6       statutes.

7       (b) On or before July 1, 2019, the Public Utilities Regulatory  
8       Authority shall initiate a docket to establish:

9       (1) Industry specific standards for acceptable performance by an  
10      electric distribution company in an emergency. Such standards shall be  
11      designed to protect public health and safety, ensure the reliability of  
12      the electric distribution company's services, prevent service outages  
13      and disruptions, minimize the number of service outages and

14 disruptions that do occur, reduce the duration of any such service  
15 outages and disruptions and facilitate restoration of service after any  
16 such service outages and disruptions. In establishing such standards,  
17 the authority shall review for each electric distribution company that  
18 operates in the state:

19 (A) The current practices concerning service restoration after an  
20 emergency. Such review shall include, but not be limited to, an  
21 analysis of each electric distribution company's (i) estimates  
22 concerning potential damage and service outages prior to any  
23 emergency, (ii) damage and service outage assessments after any  
24 emergency, (iii) restoration management after any emergency,  
25 including, but not limited to, access to alternate restoration resources  
26 through regional and reciprocal aid contracts, (iv) plans for at-risk and  
27 vulnerable customers, (v) policies concerning communication with  
28 state and local officials and customers, including, but not limited to,  
29 individual customer restoration estimates and the timeliness and  
30 usefulness of such estimates, and (vi) need for mutual assistance  
31 during any emergency.

32 (B) The adequacy of the electric distribution company's  
33 infrastructure, facilities and equipment. Such review shall include, but  
34 not be limited to, an analysis of whether such electric distribution  
35 company (i) is following standard industry practice for the operation  
36 and maintenance of such infrastructure, facilities and equipment, and  
37 (ii) has access to adequate replacement equipment for such  
38 infrastructure, facilities and equipment during the course of such  
39 emergency.

40 (C) Any current policies and procedures for coordination efforts  
41 between the electric distribution company and any  
42 telecommunications company, community antenna television  
43 company, holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority or certified  
44 competitive video service provider, including, but not limited to,  
45 coordinated planning before any emergency.

46 (D) Any other policy, practice or information that the authority  
47 determines is relevant to the review of the electric distribution  
48 company's ability to ensure the reliability of such electric distribution  
49 company's services in an emergency and to prevent, minimize and  
50 restore any service outages or disruptions that last for more than forty-  
51 eight consecutive hours caused by such emergency.

52 (E) The staffing and equipment levels related to the restoration of  
53 electric service after a service outage of the electric distribution  
54 company from January 1, 1990, to the present, provided the authority  
55 may review such levels for additional years. Such review shall include  
56 a review of the number of line crew workers and shall distinguish  
57 between (i) line crew workers directly employed by the electric  
58 distribution company and working full time within the state, (ii) line  
59 crew workers directly employed by the electric distribution company  
60 working primarily in another state, and (iii) line crew workers hired as  
61 contractors or subcontractors.

62 (2) Minimum staffing and equipment levels for each electric  
63 distribution company that operates in the state, based on the number  
64 of customers served by such electric distribution company and the  
65 nature of the infrastructure deployed to serve such electric distribution  
66 company's customers in an emergency in which more than ten per cent  
67 of such electric distribution company's customers are without service  
68 for more than forty-eight consecutive hours. Such staffing levels shall  
69 include separate specific minimums for staff who (A) are directly  
70 employed by the electric distribution company and working full time  
71 within the state, provided such minimum shall not be less than ninety-  
72 five per cent of the historic maximum level of such workers as  
73 determined by the authority pursuant to subparagraph (E) of  
74 subdivision (1) of this subsection, (B) are directly employed by the  
75 electric distribution company but work primarily in another state, and  
76 (C) are employed as contractors or subcontractors.

77 (c) Each electric distribution company operating in the state shall

78 provide the authority with any information the authority requests to  
 79 conduct the docket initiated pursuant to this section, provided any  
 80 such requests or disclosure of information does not violate any other  
 81 state or federal law.

82 (d) On or before January 1, 2020, the authority shall issue a final  
 83 decision in the docket initiated pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
 84 section. Such decision shall include a summary and any findings from  
 85 the authority's review of the items in subparagraphs (A) to (E),  
 86 inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section. The  
 87 authority shall submit such final decision, in accordance with the  
 88 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
 89 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 90 relating to energy.

91 (e) The authority may from time to time, on its own motion, open a  
 92 docket to revise the minimum staffing and equipment levels  
 93 established pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section,  
 94 pursuant to the requirements of the general statutes and this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to initiate and issue a final decision in a docket to establish standards for acceptable performance and minimum staffing and equipment levels for electric distribution companies.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33rd Dist.; SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.  
 SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.; SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.  
 SEN. ABRAMS, 13th Dist.; SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.  
 SEN. KUSHNER, 24th Dist.; SEN. HASKELL, 26th Dist.  
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