

ASSEMBLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 435

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 19, 2023

The Assembly State and Local Government Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 435 (1R).

This bill authorizes certain local authorities, including sewerage authorities, municipal utilities authorities, and county utilities authorities, to distribute live recordings of public hearings in lieu of certain transcript requirements. Under current law, when considering an adjustment to service charges, local authorities are required to hold a public hearing with the purpose of presenting evidence that the adjustment is necessary and to allow individuals to question the need for adjustment. Current law requires this public hearing to be transcribed and made available, upon request, to interested parties at a reasonable cost.

This bill allows a local authority to provide a live recording of a public hearing to an interested party in lieu of providing a written transcript. The live recording may consist of video and audio of the proceeding, or audio only. However, these authorities could not charge the interested party for a live recording. The bill also requires these authorities to satisfy any applicable requirements of the State's open public records act.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 392 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.