

2024 -- H 8295

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Introduced By: Representatives Finkelman, Dawson, and Shanley

Date Introduced: May 22, 2024

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 39-1 of the General Laws entitled "Public Utilities Commission" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **39-1-63. Gas and electric utility customer bills.**

4           (a) Each electric distribution company as defined by § 39-1-2(a) and each gas distribution  
5 company included as a public utility as defined in § 39-1-2(a) shall provide a copy of the form,  
6 content, and design of proposed bills to be sent to customers.

7           (b) The commission shall have the authority at any time to review the form, content, and  
8 design of electric and/or gas bills used by any gas or electric utility for billing customers and require  
9 any modifications that the commission finds:

10           (1) Are in the public interest; or

11           (2) Would in the commission's discretion be beneficial for the advancement of any  
12 significant energy or environmental policy initiatives in law or regulatory policy determined by the  
13 commission.

14           (c) If any modification(s) ordered by the commission pursuant to the provisions of  
15 subsection (b) of this section should require significant billing system changes, the commission  
16 shall provide a reasonable amount of time for the gas or electric utility to make the required  
17 modifications.

18           (d) To the extent that a gas or electric utility makes material changes to the form, content,  
19 or design of the bills sent to customers, the gas or electric utility shall file a copy of the new bill

1 with the commission with a complete explanation of the changes. The filing is not required to be  
2 made prior to implementation, but shall be made no later than sixty (60) days after any material  
3 change has been put into effect for billing. The commission shall open a docket to receive public  
4 comment and, if necessary, hold hearings to review the change.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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1           This act would require that electric and gas companies provide a copy of the form, content  
2 and design of their bills to the public utility commission (PUC). The act would also authorize the  
3 public utilities commission to review the form, content, and design of electric and gas bills and  
4 require any modifications that the commission finds (1) would be in the public interest, or (2) would  
5 be beneficial to any significant energy or environmental policy initiative.

6           This act would change the utility company billing practices so that when a gas or electric  
7 utility makes a material change to their customer billing, they would be required to file a copy of  
8 the new bill with the PUC, with a complete explanation of the changes, within sixty (60) days after  
9 implementation. The PUC would also open a docket to receive public comment and, if necessary,  
10 hold hearings to review the changes.

11           This act would take effect upon passage.

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