

1 S.191

2 Introduced by Senator Carris

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Public service; electric rates

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require that each retail electric
7 utility offer an initial block of kilowatt hours to ratepayers for free, and that the
8 public service board adjust the rates for electricity used above that initial block
9 in a manner that provides the utility has the opportunity to recover its cost of
10 service.

11 An act relating to an initial block of free electric power

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 218 is amended to read:

14 § 218. JURISDICTION OVER CHARGES AND RATES

15 (a) When, after opportunity for hearing, the rates, tolls, charges, or
16 schedules are found unjust, unreasonable, insufficient, or unjustly
17 discriminatory, or are found to be preferential or otherwise in violation of a
18 provision of this chapter, the board may order and substitute therefor such
19 rates, tolls, charges, or schedules, and make such changes in any regulations,
20 measurements, practices, or acts of such company relating to its service, and

1 may make such order as will compel the furnishing of such adequate service as
2 shall at such hearing be found by it to be just and reasonable.

3 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board shall require
4 that each electric energy rate of a retail electric company offer an initial block
5 of 200 kilowatt hours per month of free electricity. The board shall revise the
6 rate design of each retail electric company so that the rate for energy above this
7 initial block is set to provide the company with an opportunity to recover the
8 costs of the initial block.

9 (2) This Subject to the requirements of subdivision (1) of this
10 subsection, this section shall not be construed to require the same rates, tolls or
11 charges from any company subject to supervision under this chapter for like
12 service in different parts of the state, but the board in determining these
13 questions shall investigate local conditions and its final findings and judgment
14 shall take cognizance thereof.

15 (3) This section does not prohibit a telecommunications company from
16 filing tariffs that condition the availability of an intrastate service upon
17 subscription to an interstate or unregulated service from the same or an
18 affiliated company; provided that an incumbent local exchange carrier shall
19 provide a plan to allocate reasonably revenue between the regulated intrastate
20 service and other services. The board shall retain the authority to review the
21 tariff filing to determine whether it is just and reasonable.

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Sec. 2. IMPLEMENTATION

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By March 31, 2011, the public service board shall open, conduct, and

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complete the proceedings necessary for the initial implementation of Sec. 1 of

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this act.

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Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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This act shall take effect on passage.