
SENATE BILL 5620

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Lias and Boehnke

1 AN ACT Relating to line extension tariffs for electric vehicle
2 charging infrastructure; adding a new section to chapter 80.28 RCW;
3 creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that more and more
6 Washingtonians are driving vehicles powered by electricity and that
7 it is vital that the electric vehicle charging infrastructure keep
8 pace with this accelerating trend. Many businesses desire to install
9 electric vehicle charging stations, which nearly always requires
10 working closely with electric utilities to install infrastructure
11 from the utility's distribution system to the business. In many
12 cases, electrical companies have not adopted tariffs that address
13 these line extensions, resulting in delays and uncertainty regarding
14 the allocation of the costs of such infrastructure between the
15 utility and the facility installing the charging equipment.

16 Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that the utilities
17 and transportation commission adopt a policy providing guidance to
18 electrical companies regulated by the commission for the
19 incorporation into company rates the recovery of the costs of these
20 line extensions on the utility's side of the customer's meter.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 80.28
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) By January 1, 2024, the commission shall adopt by rule a
4 policy to provide guidance to electrical companies in the recovery
5 through rates of the costs of installation, maintenance, and
6 operation of electrical distribution infrastructure on the utility's
7 side of the meter to commercial customers installing electric vehicle
8 supply equipment. The policy must require treatment of this
9 infrastructure and associated design, engineering, and construction
10 work the same as other distribution infrastructure authorized for
11 recovery in the company's rates. The commission may revise the policy
12 from time to time when necessary to ensure the rates are just,
13 sufficient, and reasonable.

14 (2) By July 1, 2024, each electrical company shall file with the
15 commission its proposed tariff for the recovery of the costs eligible
16 under the policy in subsection (1) of this section. The commission
17 shall consider the filing under the procedures and standards under
18 this chapter and rules adopted by the commission for rate case
19 proceedings.

20 (3) For the purposes of this section, "electrical distribution
21 infrastructure" includes poles, vaults, service drops, transformers,
22 mounting pads, trenching, conduit, wire, cable, meters, other
23 equipment as necessary, and associated engineering and civil
24 construction work.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act must be codified
26 immediately following RCW 80.28.365.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
29 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
30 effect immediately.

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