



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 129

EFFECTIVE March 16, 2025

WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders, as are many people across the United States, are facing untenable increases in the costs of the necessities of life, including those of the energy needed to light and heat their homes; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Energy has imposed significant rate hikes, placing an unbearable financial strain on Providence residents and communities across the state, disproportionately impacting working families, seniors, and low-income households; and

WHEREAS, These rising energy costs are unsustainable, forcing families to make impossible choices between paying their utility bills and covering basic necessities such as rent, food, and medical expenses; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders face scarce options in reducing the rates and charges associated with their energy usage, most especially the poor; and

WHEREAS, The largest supplier of electricity and natural gas service to the households of the state, Rhode Island Energy, has unsatisfactorily explained exorbitant increases in the rates and charges billed to its customers since its purchase of the energy franchises three years ago; and

WHEREAS, Profit rendered at the expense of the safety of the most vulnerable is unconscionable; and

WHEREAS, Forbearances for the ill, the elderly, and those in arrears may reduce terminations and save lives; and

WHEREAS, The provision for some marked reduction in total billing against the poorest households may prove equally beneficent; and

WHEREAS, The rates that energy distributors charge customers should be subjected to greater perscrutation and justification; and

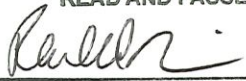

WHEREAS, Clear measures should be taken to moderate the growth of largely unjustified energy cost increases, particularly those associated with electricity service, on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, The Providence City Council wishes to convey its gratitude for the introduction of bills concerned with the above in the General Assembly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council strongly supports the introductions of H5018 and its companion S0018, H5068 and its companion S0086, H5245 and its companion S0185, H5577, and H5106.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage of this resolution, that copies be sent to the Honorable Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives K. Joseph Shekarchi, the Honorable President of the Rhode Island Senate Dominick Ruggerio, and the members of the Providence Delegation to express the strong support of the Providence City Council for H5018, S0018, H5068, S0086, H5245, S0185, H5577, and H5106.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAR 06 2025
READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature

Tina L. Mastroianni
City Clerk

2025 -- H 5018

LC000057

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Introduced By: Representatives Cotter, Morales, Stewart, Cruz, Tanzi, Kazarian, Fogarty,
Carson, Kislak, and Hull

Date Introduced: January 10, 2025

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-1-27.7.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1 entitled "Public
2 Utilities Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-1-27.7.1. Revenue decoupling.**

4 (a) The general assembly finds and declares that electricity and gas revenues shall be fully
5 decoupled from sales pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and further finds and declares that
6 any decoupling proposal submitted by an electric distribution company as defined in § 39-1-
7 2(a)(12) or gas distribution company included as a public utility in § 39-1-2(a)(20) that has greater
8 than one hundred thousand (100,000) customers, shall be for the following purposes:

9 (1) Increasing efficiency in the operations and management of the electric and gas
10 distribution system;

11 (2) Achieving the goals established in the electric distribution company's plan for system
12 reliability and energy efficiency and conservation procurement as required pursuant to § 39-1-
13 27.7(d);

14 (3) Increasing investment in least-cost resources that will reduce long-term electricity
15 demand;

16 (4) Reducing risks for both customers and the distribution company including, but not
17 limited to, societal risks, weather risks, and economic risks;

18 (5) Increasing investment in end-use energy efficiency;

19 (6) Eliminating disincentives to support energy-efficiency programs;

1 (7) Facilitating and encouraging investment in utility infrastructure, safety, and reliability;
2 and

3 (8) Considering the reduction of fixed, recurring customer charges and transition to
4 increased unit charges that more accurately reflect the long-term costs of energy production and
5 delivery.

6 (b)(1) Each electric distribution company as defined by § 39-1-2(a)(12) and gas distribution
7 company included as a public utility in § 39-1-2(a)(20) having greater than one hundred thousand
8 (100,000) customers shall file proposals at the commission to implement the policy set forth in
9 subsection (a) of this section. The commission shall approve these proposals, provided they contain
10 the features and components set forth in subsection (c) of this section, and that they are consistent
11 with the intent and objectives contained in subsection (a) of this section. Actions taken by the
12 commission in the exercise of its ratemaking authority for electric and gas rate cases shall be within
13 the norm of industry standards and recognize the need to maintain the financial health of the
14 distribution company as a stand-alone entity in Rhode Island.

15 (2) Provided, effective July 1, 2025, the profit margin of any public utility company that is
16 an electric distribution company or gas distribution company, as further defined in § 39-1-2, shall
17 not have a profit margin greater than or exceeding four percent (4%), in any given calendar year.
18 The public utilities commission shall amend its rules and regulations as needed, consistent with the
19 provisions of this chapter. As used herein, a "profit margin" shall refer to the return on equity,
20 which shall be the return on the equity portion of the base rate, that is allowed by the commission.

21 (c) The proposals shall contain the following features and components:

22 (1) A revenue decoupling reconciliation mechanism that reconciles annually the revenue
23 requirement allowed in the company's base distribution-rate case to revenues actually received for
24 the applicable twelve-month (12) period. Any revenues over-recovered or under-recovered shall be
25 credited to, or recovered from, customers, as applicable; and

26 (2) An annual infrastructure, safety, and reliability spending plan for each fiscal year and
27 an annual rate-reconciliation mechanism that includes a reconcilable allowance for the anticipated
28 capital investments and other spending pursuant to the annual pre-approved budget as developed
29 in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

30 (d) Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, gas and electric distribution companies shall
31 consult with the division of public utilities and carriers regarding their infrastructure, safety, and
32 reliability spending plan for the following fiscal year, addressing the following categories:

33 (1) Capital spending on utility infrastructure;

34 (2) For electric distribution companies, operation and maintenance expenses on vegetation

1 management;

2 (3) For electric distribution companies, operation and maintenance expenses on system
3 inspection, including expenses from expected resulting repairs; and

4 (4) Any other costs relating to maintaining safety and reliability that are mutually agreed
5 upon by the division and the company.

6 The distribution company shall submit a plan to the division and the division shall
7 cooperate in good faith to reach an agreement on a proposed plan for these categories of costs for
8 the prospective fiscal year within sixty (60) days. To the extent that the company and the division
9 mutually agree on a plan, such plan shall be filed with the commission for review and approval
10 within ninety (90) days. If the company and the division cannot agree on a plan, the company shall
11 file a proposed plan with the commission and the commission shall review and, if the investments
12 and spending are found to be reasonably needed to maintain safe and reliable distribution service
13 over the short and long term, approve the plan within ninety (90) days.

14 (e) The commission shall have the following duties and powers, in addition to its existing
15 authorities established in this title:

16 (1) To maintain reasonable and adequate service-quality standards, after decoupling, that
17 are in effect at the time of the proposal and were established pursuant to § 39-3-7.

18 (2) The commission may exclude the low-income rate class from the revenue decoupling
19 reconciliation-rate mechanism for either electric or gas distribution. The commission also may
20 exclude customers in the large commercial and industrial rate class from the gas-distribution
21 mechanism.

22 (3) The commission may adopt performance incentives for the electric distribution
23 company that provide a shared-savings mechanism whereby the company would receive a
24 percentage of savings realized as a result of achieving the purposes of this section while the
25 remaining savings are credited to customers.

26 (4) The commission shall review and approve, with any necessary amendments,
27 performance-based, energy-savings targets developed and submitted by the Rhode Island energy
28 efficiency and resources management council. The performance-based targets shall also be used as
29 a consideration in any shared-savings mechanism established by the commission pursuant to
30 subsection (e)(3) of this section.

31 (f) The Rhode Island energy efficiency and resources management council shall propose
32 performance-based, energy-savings targets to the commission no later than September 1, 2010. The
33 targets shall include, but not be limited to, specific energy kilowatt-hour savings overall and peak-
34 demand savings for both summer and winter peak periods expressed in total megawatts as well as

1 appropriate targets recommended in the opportunities report filed with the commission pursuant to
2 § 39-1-27.7(d)(3). The council shall revise, as necessary, these targets on an annual basis prior to
3 the reconciliation process established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and submit its
4 revisions to the commission for approval.

5 (g) **Reporting.** Every electric distribution company, as defined in subsection (a) of this
6 section, shall report to the governor, general assembly, division of public utilities and carriers, and
7 public utilities commission on or before September 1, 2012. The report shall include, but not be
8 limited to, the following elements:

9 (1) A comparison of revenues from traditional rate regulation and how the revenues have
10 differed as part of an approved decoupling structure;

11 (2) A summary of how the company is achieving the performance-based targets that may
12 have been adopted pursuant to subsection (e)(4) of this section;

13 (3) A summary of any shared savings the company may have received pursuant to the
14 performance incentives authorized in subsection (e)(3) of this section;

15 (4) A summary of how the company is achieving the service-quality standards required in
16 subsection (e)(1) of this section;

17 (5) An overview of how decoupling is impacting revenue stabilization goals that have
18 resulted from decoupling; and

19 (6) A summary of any customer education programs provided.

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

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LC000057
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 This act would provide that effective July 1, 2025, the profit margin of any electric
2 distribution company or gas distribution company, would not exceed four percent (4%), in any
3 given calendar year. This act would further define a "profit margin" as the return on equity, which
4 would be the return on the equity portion of the base rate, that is allowed by the commission.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC000057
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2025 -- S 0018

LC000776

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Introduced By: Senators Gu, Sosnowski, Kallman, Mack, Zurier, and Urso

Date Introduced: January 23, 2025

Referred To: Senate Commerce

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-1-27.7.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1 entitled "Public
2 Utilities Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-1-27.7.1. Revenue decoupling.**

4 (a) The general assembly finds and declares that electricity and gas revenues shall be fully
5 decoupled from sales pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and further finds and declares that
6 any decoupling proposal submitted by an electric distribution company as defined in § 39-1-
7 2(a)(12) or gas distribution company included as a public utility in § 39-1-2(a)(20) that has greater
8 than one hundred thousand (100,000) customers, shall be for the following purposes:

9 (1) Increasing efficiency in the operations and management of the electric and gas
10 distribution system;

11 (2) Achieving the goals established in the electric distribution company's plan for system
12 reliability and energy efficiency and conservation procurement as required pursuant to § 39-1-
13 27.7(d);

14 (3) Increasing investment in least-cost resources that will reduce long-term electricity
15 demand;

16 (4) Reducing risks for both customers and the distribution company including, but not
17 limited to, societal risks, weather risks, and economic risks;

18 (5) Increasing investment in end-use energy efficiency;

19 (6) Eliminating disincentives to support energy-efficiency programs;

1 (7) Facilitating and encouraging investment in utility infrastructure, safety, and reliability;
2 and

3 (8) Considering the reduction of fixed, recurring customer charges and transition to
4 increased unit charges that more accurately reflect the long-term costs of energy production and
5 delivery.

6 (b)(1) Each electric distribution company as defined by § 39-1-2(a)(12) and gas distribution
7 company included as a public utility in § 39-1-2(a)(20) having greater than one hundred thousand
8 (100,000) customers shall file proposals at the commission to implement the policy set forth in
9 subsection (a) of this section. The commission shall approve these proposals, provided they contain
10 the features and components set forth in subsection (c) of this section, and that they are consistent
11 with the intent and objectives contained in subsection (a) of this section. Actions taken by the
12 commission in the exercise of its ratemaking authority for electric and gas rate cases shall be within
13 the norm of industry standards and recognize the need to maintain the financial health of the
14 distribution company as a stand-alone entity in Rhode Island.

15 (2) Provided, effective July 1, 2025, the profit margin of any public utility company that is
16 an electric distribution company or gas distribution company, as further defined in § 39-1-2, shall
17 not have a profit margin greater than or exceeding four percent (4%), in any given calendar year.
18 The public utilities commission shall amend its rules and regulations as needed, consistent with the
19 provisions of this chapter. As used herein, a "profit margin" shall refer to the return on equity,
20 which shall be the return on the equity portion of the base rate, that is allowed by the commission.

21 (c) The proposals shall contain the following features and components:

22 (1) A revenue decoupling reconciliation mechanism that reconciles annually the revenue
23 requirement allowed in the company's base distribution-rate case to revenues actually received for
24 the applicable twelve-month (12) period. Any revenues over-recovered or under-recovered shall be
25 credited to, or recovered from, customers, as applicable; and

26 (2) An annual infrastructure, safety, and reliability spending plan for each fiscal year and
27 an annual rate-reconciliation mechanism that includes a reconcilable allowance for the anticipated
28 capital investments and other spending pursuant to the annual pre-approved budget as developed
29 in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

30 (d) Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, gas and electric distribution companies shall
31 consult with the division of public utilities and carriers regarding their infrastructure, safety, and
32 reliability spending plan for the following fiscal year, addressing the following categories:

33 (1) Capital spending on utility infrastructure;

34 (2) For electric distribution companies, operation and maintenance expenses on vegetation

1 management;

2 (3) For electric distribution companies, operation and maintenance expenses on system
3 inspection, including expenses from expected resulting repairs; and

4 (4) Any other costs relating to maintaining safety and reliability that are mutually agreed
5 upon by the division and the company.

6 The distribution company shall submit a plan to the division and the division shall
7 cooperate in good faith to reach an agreement on a proposed plan for these categories of costs for
8 the prospective fiscal year within sixty (60) days. To the extent that the company and the division
9 mutually agree on a plan, such plan shall be filed with the commission for review and approval
10 within ninety (90) days. If the company and the division cannot agree on a plan, the company shall
11 file a proposed plan with the commission and the commission shall review and, if the investments
12 and spending are found to be reasonably needed to maintain safe and reliable distribution service
13 over the short and long term, approve the plan within ninety (90) days.

14 (e) The commission shall have the following duties and powers, in addition to its existing
15 authorities established in this title:

16 (1) To maintain reasonable and adequate service-quality standards, after decoupling, that
17 are in effect at the time of the proposal and were established pursuant to § 39-3-7.

18 (2) The commission may exclude the low-income rate class from the revenue decoupling
19 reconciliation-rate mechanism for either electric or gas distribution. The commission also may
20 exclude customers in the large commercial and industrial rate class from the gas-distribution
21 mechanism.

22 (3) The commission may adopt performance incentives for the electric distribution
23 company that provide a shared-savings mechanism whereby the company would receive a
24 percentage of savings realized as a result of achieving the purposes of this section while the
25 remaining savings are credited to customers.

26 (4) The commission shall review and approve, with any necessary amendments,
27 performance-based, energy-savings targets developed and submitted by the Rhode Island energy
28 efficiency and resources management council. The performance-based targets shall also be used as
29 a consideration in any shared-savings mechanism established by the commission pursuant to
30 subsection (e)(3) of this section.

31 (f) The Rhode Island energy efficiency and resources management council shall propose
32 performance-based, energy-savings targets to the commission no later than September 1, 2010. The
33 targets shall include, but not be limited to, specific energy kilowatt-hour savings overall and peak-
34 demand savings for both summer and winter peak periods expressed in total megawatts as well as

1 appropriate targets recommended in the opportunities report filed with the commission pursuant to
2 § 39-1-27.7(d)(3). The council shall revise, as necessary, these targets on an annual basis prior to
3 the reconciliation process established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and submit its
4 revisions to the commission for approval.

5 (g) **Reporting.** Every electric distribution company, as defined in subsection (a) of this
6 section, shall report to the governor, general assembly, division of public utilities and carriers, and
7 public utilities commission on or before September 1, 2012. The report shall include, but not be
8 limited to, the following elements:

9 (1) A comparison of revenues from traditional rate regulation and how the revenues have
10 differed as part of an approved decoupling structure;

11 (2) A summary of how the company is achieving the performance-based targets that may
12 have been adopted pursuant to subsection (e)(4) of this section;

13 (3) A summary of any shared savings the company may have received pursuant to the
14 performance incentives authorized in subsection (e)(3) of this section;

15 (4) A summary of how the company is achieving the service-quality standards required in
16 subsection (e)(1) of this section;

17 (5) An overview of how decoupling is impacting revenue stabilization goals that have
18 resulted from decoupling; and

19 (6) A summary of any customer education programs provided.

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

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LC000776
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 This act would provide that effective July 1, 2025, the profit margin of any electric
2 distribution company or gas distribution company, would not exceed four percent (4%), in any
3 given calendar year. This act would further define a "profit margin" as the return on equity, which
4 would be the return on the equity portion of the base rate, that is allowed by the commission.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC000776
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2025 -- H 5068

LC000522

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- TERMINATION OF SERVICE TO PERSONS WHO ARE DISABLED, SERIOUSLY ILL, OR IN ARREARS OF PAYMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Cruz, J. Lombardi, Slater, Morales, Stewart, Giraldo, Potter, Biah, Diaz, and DeSimone

Date Introduced: January 16, 2025

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-1.1-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1.1 entitled "Termination
2 of Service to Persons Who Are Disabled, Seriously Ill, or in Arrears of Payment" is hereby amended
3 to read as follows:

4 **39-1.1-2. Determination of persons subject to nontermination.**

5 (a) The commission shall promulgate appropriate rules and regulations to determine which
6 persons who are elderly, disabled, or seriously ill are subject to the nontermination provisions of §
7 39-1.1-1, and in what manner relief will be made available to the subject persons.

8 (b) Rules and regulations maintained to determine which persons are seriously ill shall
9 include the provision that said determination shall be through certification to the public utility or to
10 the division of public utilities and carriers by a licensed physician.

11 (1) A licensed physician's certification of serious illness shall be sufficient if initially made
12 by telephone. In such event, the public utility or the division, whichever received initial
13 certification, shall inform the certifying physician that he or she must forward to the public utility
14 within seven (7) days a written certification indicating the name and address of the seriously ill
15 person, the nature of the illness, and its likely duration. The public utility shall acknowledge receipt
16 of such written certification and shall notify the customer in writing of the date upon which service
17 will be terminated, unless the customer: (i) Has arranged for payment of an outstanding amount
18 with the public utility, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the commission; (ii)

1 Requests a hearing, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the commission; or (iii)
2 Enrolls in a residential payment plan or other payment arrangement. The termination date shall be
3 ~~not less than~~ the last day of the period specified by the physician as the duration of the illness. If
4 the physician has failed to specify the length of the illness, or if the physician has indicated that the
5 length of the illness is not readily ascertainable, then the termination date shall be not less than
6 three (3) ~~weeks~~ months from receipt by the public utility of the written certification. If the duration
7 of the illness exceeds ~~three (3) weeks from the certification to the public utility;~~ the termination
8 date the customer may request a review pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the
9 commission, to determine whether the initial exemption shall continue, for how long, and under
10 what circumstances.

11 (2) A public utility must honor a licensed physician's certification of serious illness, but
12 may seek division review of the validity of the certification, pursuant to rules and regulations
13 promulgated by the commission. If a licensed physician's certification does not comply with the
14 requirements promulgated by the commission and is rejected by a public utility, the public utility
15 shall inform the customer immediately, in writing, of the reasons for rejection of the certification
16 and the customer's right to have the division review the utility's rejection of the certification.

17 (3) Nontermination for any reason does not, in any way, relieve the customer of liability
18 incurred for utility services.

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

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LC000522
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- TERMINATION OF SERVICE TO
PERSONS WHO ARE DISABLED, SERIOUSLY ILL, OR IN ARREARS OF PAYMENT

- 1 This act would extend the forbearance of utility terminations for customers with serious
- 2 illness certifications and would amend various provisions related to the termination of utility
- 3 services for persons who are disabled, seriously ill, or in arrears.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC000522
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- TERMINATION OF SERVICE TO PERSONS WHO ARE DISABLED, SERIOUSLY ILL, OR IN ARREARS OF PAYMENT

Introduced By: Senators Kallman, Lauria, Sosnowski, Britto, Murray, Mack, Vargas, Quezada, Thompson, and Urso

Date Introduced: January 31, 2025

Referred To: Senate Commerce

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-1.1-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1.1 entitled "Termination
2 of Service to Persons Who Are Disabled, Seriously Ill, or in Arrears of Payment" is hereby amended
3 to read as follows:

4 **39-1.1-2. Determination of persons subject to nontermination.**

5 (a) The commission shall promulgate appropriate rules and regulations to determine which
6 persons who are elderly, disabled, or seriously ill are subject to the nontermination provisions of §
7 39-1.1-1, and in what manner relief will be made available to the subject persons.

8 (b) Rules and regulations maintained to determine which persons are seriously ill shall
9 include the provision that said determination shall be through certification to the public utility or to
10 the division of public utilities and carriers by a licensed physician.

11 (1) A licensed physician's certification of serious illness shall be sufficient if initially made
12 by telephone. In such event, the public utility or the division, whichever received initial
13 certification, shall inform the certifying physician that he or she must forward to the public utility
14 within seven (7) days a written certification indicating the name and address of the seriously ill
15 person, the nature of the illness, and its likely duration. The public utility shall acknowledge receipt
16 of such written certification and shall notify the customer in writing of the date upon which service
17 will be terminated, unless the customer: (i) Has arranged for payment of an outstanding amount
18 with the public utility, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the commission; (ii)

1 Requests a hearing, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the commission; or (iii)
2 Enrolls in a residential payment plan or other payment arrangement. The termination date shall be
3 ~~not less than~~ the last day of the period specified by the physician as the duration of the illness. If
4 the physician has failed to specify the length of the illness, or if the physician has indicated that the
5 length of the illness is not readily ascertainable, then the termination date shall be not less than
6 three (3) ~~weeks~~ months from receipt by the public utility of the written certification. If the duration
7 of the illness exceeds ~~three (3) weeks from the certification to the public utility;~~ the termination
8 date the customer may request a review pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the
9 commission, to determine whether the initial exemption shall continue, for how long, and under
10 what circumstances.

11 (2) A public utility must honor a licensed physician's certification of serious illness, but
12 may seek division review of the validity of the certification, pursuant to rules and regulations
13 promulgated by the commission. If a licensed physician's certification does not comply with the
14 requirements promulgated by the commission and is rejected by a public utility, the public utility
15 shall inform the customer immediately, in writing, of the reasons for rejection of the certification
16 and the customer's right to have the division review the utility's rejection of the certification.

17 (3) Nontermination for any reason does not, in any way, relieve the customer of liability
18 incurred for utility services.

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

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LC000181
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- TERMINATION OF SERVICE TO
PERSONS WHO ARE DISABLED, SERIOUSLY ILL, OR IN ARREARS OF PAYMENT

- 1 This act would extend the forbearance of utility terminations for customers with serious
2 illness certifications and would amend various provisions related to the termination of utility
3 services for persons who are disabled, seriously ill, or in arrears.
4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC000181
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2025 -- H 5245

LC000875

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Introduced By: Representatives Slater, Morales, Potter, Diaz, DeSimone, Stewart, Voas,
and Cruz

Date Introduced: January 31, 2025

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-1-27.12 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1 entitled "Public
2 Utilities Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-1-27.12. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Enhancement Plan.**

4 (a) The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Enhancement Plan (hereinafter
5 "LIHEAP Enhancement Plan") is hereby created to supplement the federal Low Income Home
6 Energy Assistance Program ("LIHEAP") funding being received by customers of Rhode Island
7 electric and gas distribution companies.

8 (b) Within a period of time sufficient to accomplish the purposes of this section, but not
9 longer than ninety (90) days after the effective date of this chapter, the department of human
10 services shall develop a recommended monthly "LIHEAP enhancement charge" rate for the
11 following year and make a filing with the commission pursuant to this chapter recommending rates.
12 Thereafter annually, but no later than October 15 of each year, the department shall make filings
13 with the commission to recommend the LIHEAP enhancement charge rates for each class of
14 electric and natural gas distribution company customer for the following year.

15 (c) A LIHEAP enhancement charge approved by the commission shall have the following
16 limitations:

17 (1) For electric distribution company customers, the charge shall not be more than ten
18 dollars (\$10.00) per year.

19 (2) For natural gas distribution company customers, the charge shall not be more than ten

1 dollars (\$10.00) per year.

2 (3) The total projected annual revenue for the LIHEAP enhancement plan through charges
3 to all electric and natural gas distribution company customers shall not exceed seven million five
4 hundred thousand dollars (\$7,500,000) and shall not be below six million five hundred thousand
5 dollars (\$6,500,000).

6 A minimum of five percent (5%) shall be allocated to provide assistance to customers who
7 are seeking LIHEAP certification for the sole purpose of entering into an arrearage plan as defined
8 in § 39-2-1(d)(2) between April 15 and September 30 of each year. Such customers must be a
9 homeless family or individual transitioning from a shelter into housing and who have provided
10 documentation acceptable to the department of human services. Any funds remaining at the end of
11 the fiscal year shall be available for the upcoming winter season.

12 (d) The commission shall open a docket, to consider for approval, LIHEAP enhancement
13 charge rates proposed by the department. In reviewing the recommended rates, the commission
14 shall give due consideration to the recommendations of the department and the standards set forth
15 in subsection (c). The commission shall issue a decision within sixty (60) days after said
16 recommendations and report are filed with the commission establishing the enhancement plan
17 charge rates.

18 (e) The electric or gas distribution company shall use the funds collected through this
19 enhancement plan charge to provide a credit to customers' accounts that are receiving ~~federal~~
20 ~~LIHEAP assistance payments~~ [enrolled in a percentage of income payment rate as approved by the](#)
21 [commission pursuant to § 39-2-1.5](#) in a manner determined by the department of human services.
22 The department of human services shall designate to the gas- or electric distribution company the
23 qualifying customer accounts and the amounts to be credited to those customer accounts, provided
24 that the total amount to be credited to those accounts shall be fully funded by, and not exceed, the
25 total amount collected through the enhancement plan charge. The electric or gas distribution
26 company's added administrative expenses to process the credit assignments provided to it by the
27 department of human services will be recoverable either from the LIHEAP enhancement charge or
28 through a separate charge approved by the public utilities commission.

29 (f) As used in this section, "electric and natural gas distribution company" means a
30 company as defined in § 39-1-2(a)(12), but not including the Block Island Power Company or the
31 Pascoag Utility District.

32 SECTION 2. Chapter 39-2 of the General Laws entitled "Duties of Utilities and Carriers"
33 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

34 **39-2-1.5. Tiered percentage of income payments programs..**

1 (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the public utilities commission is
2 authorized to approve rates to residential customers of an electric distribution company, as defined
3 in § 39-1-2(a)(12) or a gas distribution company included as a public utility in § 39-1-2(a)(20) that
4 has greater than one hundred thousand (100,000) customers, whose household income is at or
5 below one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the federal poverty level and who are eligible to receive
6 assistance through the low income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) or are enrolled in
7 Medicaid, that provide one or more tiers of discount off the residential rate based on income levels,
8 regardless of whether the utility has proposed such rates.

9 (1) For purposes of calculating a customer's income for determination of the appropriate
10 tier, any LIHEAP or LIHEAP enhancement grant shall count toward the calculation of income.

11 (2) Each tier of discount rate shall provide a fixed per bill discount to all eligible customers
12 within the applicable tiered class.

13 (3) The fixed per bill discount shall be designed to approximate an average annual electric
14 expense of not more than three percent (3%) of the income of customers within the applicable tiered
15 class for customers who do not use electric as their primary source of heat, or six percent (6%) of
16 the income of customers within the applicable tiered class who use electric as their primary source
17 of heat.

18 (4) The fixed per bill discount shall be designed to approximate an average annual natural
19 gas expense of not more than three percent (3%) of the income of customers within the applicable
20 tiered class for eligible customers who use gas as their primary source of heat.

21 (5) To establish the discount tiers and customer eligibility, the commission may consider
22 targeted annual average expense.

23 (6) Notwithstanding the foregoing, a maximum annual benefit shall be established by the
24 commission with input from the electric distribution company, the division of public utilities and
25 carriers, and stakeholders.

26 (b) The cost of the discount, including administrative costs, not funded through other
27 sources, shall be collected in rates from all other customers of the electric and gas distribution
28 companies in a manner determined just and reasonable by the commission.

29 (c) In setting the number of tiers of discount rates under this section, the commission shall
30 balance the level of discount with the administrative costs that would be incurred to implement the
31 rate structure.

32 (d) The tiers and percentage discount rates shall be set initially no later than December 31,
33 2025, in effect for ninety (90) days after the tiers and percentage discount rates are set and
34 thereafter, they will subsequently be set no less frequently than in each of the electric or gas

1 distribution company's respective base distribution rate cases.

2 (e) An electric or gas distribution company shall enroll an eligible customer in the
3 appropriate tier at such time as the electric or gas distribution company receives proof of LIHEAP
4 eligibility or enrollment in Medicaid and verification of income level as certified by the department
5 of human services and/or subcontractors of the department such as a community action program or
6 other community-based agency which shares in the process of determining eligibility for LIHEAP
7 benefits or in some other manner determined to be efficient and cost effective by the commission.

8 (f) Customers enrolled in the tiered discount rate under this section shall be offered energy
9 efficiency programs as appropriate upon enrollment.

10 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC000875
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 This act would create an income-sensitive tiered subsidy program to ensure that home
2 energy utility costs are affordable for eligible low-income households. The cost of the discount,
3 including administrative costs, not funded through other sources, would be collected in rates from
4 all other customers of the electric and gas distribution companies.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC000875
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2025 -- S 0185

LC000152

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Murray, Zurier, Valverde, Kallman, DiMario, Gu, Ciccone, Pearson, and Britto

Date Introduced: February 07, 2025

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 39-2 of the General Laws entitled "Duties of Utilities and Carriers"

2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **39-2-1.5. Tiered percentage of income payment program.**

4 (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no later than January 2, 2026, each
5 electric distribution company, as defined in § 39-1-2(a) or a gas distribution company included as
6 a public utility in § 39-1-2(a), that has greater than one hundred thousand (100,000) customers,
7 shall file with the public utilities commission a proposed percentage of income plan applicable to
8 residential customers whose household income is at or below one hundred fifty percent (150%) of
9 the federal poverty level. The public utilities commission shall be authorized to approve or amend
10 the filed plan.

11 (1) Each tier shall provide a discount designed to ensure that the eligible customer pay no
12 more than a fixed percent of the income level for that tier for their utility costs.

13 (2) The payment plan shall be designed to provide for a fixed monthly payment and
14 forgiveness of pre-participation arrearages over a twenty-four (24) month period.

15 (3) The fixed per bill discount shall be designed to approximate an average annual electric
16 expense of not more than three percent (3%) of the income of customers within the applicable tiered
17 class for customers who do not use electric as their primary source of heat, or six percent (6%) of
18 the income of customers within the applicable tiered class who use electric as their primary source

1 of heat.

2 (4) The fixed per bill discount shall be designed to approximate an average annual natural
3 gas expense of not more than three percent (3%) of the income of customers within the applicable
4 tiered class for eligible customers who use gas as their primary source of heat.

5 (5) To establish the discount tiers and customer eligibility, the commission may consider
6 targeted annual average expense for participants.

7 (6) Notwithstanding ~~the~~ foregoing, a maximum annual benefit and minimum monthly
8 payment shall be established by the commission with input from the electric distribution company,
9 the division of public utilities and carriers, and stakeholders.

10 (b) The cost of the discount, including administrative costs not funded through other
11 sources, shall be collected in rates from all other customers of the electric and gas distribution
12 companies in a manner determined just and reasonable by the commission.

13 (c) In reviewing the proposed payment plan under this section, the commission shall
14 balance the level of discounts with the administrative costs that would be incurred to implement
15 the payment plan.

16 (d) The commission shall render a decision on the proposed percentage of income plan no
17 later than January 15, 2027. The approved plan shall be included as part of the electric and gas
18 company's next general rate filing and future general rate filings.

19 (e) An electric or gas distribution company shall enroll an eligible customer in the
20 appropriate tier at such time as the electric or gas distribution company receives verification of
21 income level or in some other manner determined to be efficient and cost effective by the
22 commission.

23 (f) Customers enrolled in the tiered discount rate under this section shall be offered energy
24 efficiency programs as appropriate upon enrollment.

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

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LC000152
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND
CARRIERS

1 This act would create an income-sensitive tiered subsidy program to ensure that home
2 energy utility costs are affordable for eligible low-income households. The cost of the discount,
3 including administrative costs not funded through other sources, would be collected in rates from
4 all other customers of the electric and gas distribution companies in a manner determined just and
5 reasonable by the public utilities commission.

6 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC000152
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2025 -- H 5577

LC001810

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
-- 2025 UTILITY COMPANY BILLING TRANSPARENCY ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Cotter, Ajello, Potter, Chippendale, Boylan, Fogarty,
Carson, Bennett, Speakman, and Spears

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Short Title.

2 This act may be cited as the "2025 Utility Company Billing Transparency Act."

3 SECTION 2. Findings.

4 The general assembly finds as follows:

5 1. Consumers have expressed concerns that utility company bills, such as those from Rhode
6 Island Energy (RIE), contain a variety of charges that are confusing and burdensome, particularly
7 regarding how costs are calculated and how funds are used;

8 2. Clear and concise explanations of the charges on utility company bills would enable
9 consumers to better understand their utility costs and make informed decisions regarding their
10 service;

11 3. Transparency regarding the costs included in utility company bills would promote trust
12 and accountability among all stakeholders and the general public; and

13 4. Similar measures to ensure billing transparency and understanding of utility company
14 charges have been successfully implemented in other states

15 SECTION 3. Definitions.

16 For the purposes of this act:

17 (1) "Utility company bill" or "utility bill" means the utility bill issued by the electric
18 distribution company as defined by § 39-1-2(a)(12) and gas distribution company included as a

1 public utility in § 39-1-2(a)(20) having greater than one hundred thousand (100,000) customers that
2 includes charges for residential energy services, which may include, but are not limited to, base
3 utility charges, fees, taxes, and any other charges related to the provision of energy services.

4 SECTION 4. Section 39-1-27.7.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1 entitled "Public
5 Utilities Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 **39-1-27.7.1. Revenue decoupling.**

7 (a) The general assembly finds and declares that electricity and gas revenues shall be fully
8 decoupled from sales pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and further finds and declares that
9 any decoupling proposal submitted by an electric distribution company as defined in § 39-1-
10 2(a)(12) or gas distribution company included as a public utility in § 39-1-2(a)(20) that has greater
11 than one hundred thousand (100,000) customers, shall be for the following purposes:

12 (1) Increasing efficiency in the operations and management of the electric and gas
13 distribution system;

14 (2) Achieving the goals established in the electric distribution company's plan for system
15 reliability and energy efficiency and conservation procurement as required pursuant to § 39-1-
16 27.7(d);

17 (3) Increasing investment in least-cost resources that will reduce long-term electricity
18 demand;

19 (4) Reducing risks for both customers and the distribution company including, but not
20 limited to, societal risks, weather risks, and economic risks;

21 (5) Increasing investment in end-use energy efficiency;

22 (6) Eliminating disincentives to support energy-efficiency programs;

23 (7) Facilitating and encouraging investment in utility infrastructure, safety, and reliability;

24 and

25 (8) Considering the reduction of fixed, recurring customer charges and transition to
26 increased unit charges that more accurately reflect the long-term costs of energy production and
27 delivery.

28 (b) Each electric distribution company as defined by § 39-1-2(a)(12) and gas distribution
29 company included as a public utility in § 39-1-2(a)(20) having greater than one hundred thousand
30 (100,000) customers shall file proposals at the commission to implement the policy set forth in
31 subsection (a) of this section. The commission shall approve these proposals, provided they contain
32 the features and components set forth in subsection (c) of this section, and that they are consistent
33 with the intent and objectives contained in subsection (a) of this section. Actions taken by the
34 commission in the exercise of its ratemaking authority for electric and gas rate cases shall be within

1 the norm of industry standards ~~and recognize the need to maintain the financial health of the~~
2 ~~distribution company as a stand-alone entity in Rhode Island.~~

3 (c) The proposals shall contain the following features and components:

4 (1) A revenue decoupling reconciliation mechanism that reconciles annually the revenue
5 requirement allowed in the company's base distribution-rate case to revenues actually received for
6 the applicable twelve-month (12) period. Any revenues over-recovered or under-recovered shall be
7 credited to, or recovered from, customers, as applicable; and

8 (2) An annual infrastructure, safety, and reliability spending plan for each fiscal year and
9 an annual rate-reconciliation mechanism that includes a reconcilable allowance for the anticipated
10 capital investments and other spending pursuant to the annual pre-approved budget as developed
11 in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

12 (d) Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, gas and electric distribution companies shall
13 consult with the division of public utilities and carriers regarding their infrastructure, safety, and
14 reliability spending plan for the following fiscal year, addressing the following categories:

15 (1) Capital spending on utility infrastructure;

16 (2) For electric distribution companies, operation and maintenance expenses on vegetation
17 management;

18 (3) For electric distribution companies, operation and maintenance expenses on system
19 inspection, including expenses from expected resulting repairs; and

20 (4) Any other costs relating to maintaining safety and reliability that are mutually agreed
21 upon by the division and the company.

22 The distribution company shall submit a plan to the division and the division shall
23 cooperate in good faith to reach an agreement on a proposed plan for these categories of costs for
24 the prospective fiscal year within sixty (60) days. To the extent that the company and the division
25 mutually agree on a plan, such plan shall be filed with the commission for review and approval
26 within ninety (90) days. If the company and the division cannot agree on a plan, the company shall
27 file a proposed plan with the commission and the commission shall review and, if the investments
28 and spending are found to be reasonably needed to maintain safe and reliable distribution service
29 over the short and long term, approve the plan within ninety (90) days.

30 (e) The commission shall have the following duties and powers, in addition to its existing
31 authorities established in this title:

32 (1) To maintain reasonable and adequate service-quality standards, after decoupling, that
33 are in effect at the time of the proposal and were established pursuant to § 39-3-7.

34 (2) The commission may exclude the low-income rate class from the revenue decoupling

1 reconciliation-rate mechanism for either electric or gas distribution. The commission also may
2 exclude customers in the large commercial and industrial rate class from the gas-distribution
3 mechanism.

4 (3) The commission may adopt performance incentives for the electric distribution
5 company that provide a shared-savings mechanism whereby the company would receive a
6 percentage of savings realized as a result of achieving the purposes of this section while the
7 remaining savings are credited to customers.

8 (4) The commission shall review and approve, with any necessary amendments,
9 performance-based, energy-savings targets developed and submitted by the Rhode Island energy
10 efficiency and resources management council. The performance-based targets shall also be used as
11 a consideration in any shared-savings mechanism established by the commission pursuant to
12 subsection (e)(3) of this section.

13 (f) The Rhode Island energy efficiency and resources management council shall propose
14 performance-based, energy-savings targets to the commission no later than September 1, 2010. The
15 targets shall include, but not be limited to, specific energy kilowatt-hour savings overall and peak-
16 demand savings for both summer and winter peak periods expressed in total megawatts as well as
17 appropriate targets recommended in the opportunities report filed with the commission pursuant to
18 § 39-1-27.7(d)(3). The council shall revise, as necessary, these targets on an annual basis prior to
19 the reconciliation process established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and submit its
20 revisions to the commission for approval.

21 (g) **Reporting.** Every electric distribution company, as defined in subsection (a) of this
22 section, shall report to the governor, general assembly, division of public utilities and carriers, and
23 public utilities commission on or before September 1, 2012. The report shall include, but not be
24 limited to, the following elements:

25 (1) A comparison of revenues from traditional rate regulation and how the revenues have
26 differed as part of an approved decoupling structure;

27 (2) A summary of how the company is achieving the performance-based targets that may
28 have been adopted pursuant to subsection (e)(4) of this section;

29 (3) A summary of any shared savings the company may have received pursuant to the
30 performance incentives authorized in subsection (e)(3) of this section;

31 (4) A summary of how the company is achieving the service-quality standards required in
32 subsection (e)(1) of this section;

33 (5) An overview of how decoupling is impacting revenue stabilization goals that have
34 resulted from decoupling; and

1 (6) A summary of any customer education programs provided.

2 SECTION 5. Chapter 39-3 of the General Laws entitled "Regulatory Powers of
3 Administration" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

4 **39-3-45. Requirements prior to implementing rate changes.**

5 (a) Each electric distribution company as defined by § 39-1-2(a)(12) and gas distribution
6 company included as a public utility in § 39-1-2(a)(20) having greater than one hundred thousand
7 (100,000) customers shall comply with the following:

8 (1) Before implementing rate changes, utilities shall submit a ratepayer impact analyses
9 (RIA) that estimates the impact of proposed rate changes on different customer classes. This RIA
10 shall include analysis of the cost-benefit relationship of rate adjustments, particularly how they
11 benefit or disadvantage various sectors;

12 (2) Provide monthly detailed descriptions of charges in utility company bills, including
13 how much of the charge goes toward various services in order that customers can understand the
14 effects of rate adjustments;

15 (3) Provide periodic explanations of significant rate changes or cost fluctuations, such as
16 variations in energy procurement costs, regulatory adjustments, changes in charges for supply,
17 transmission, distribution and other costs, and how those factors may change over time; as well as
18 an explanation that shall include information of how customers can reduce their bill; and

19 (4) Provide annual reports that include a breakdown of the costs contributing to rate
20 adjustments, such as energy procurement costs, infrastructure investments, revenues and profits,
21 and operational costs.

22 (b) Enforcement.

23 (1) The public utilities commission shall oversee compliance with this section and may
24 impose fines or penalties for failure to provide accurate, timely, and clear explanations of rate
25 changes.

26 (2) Failure to include with a rate filing a clear explanation as required under this section
27 shall result in suspension of the rate filing until proper notifications and explanations are provided.

28 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC001810
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EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
-- 2025 UTILITY COMPANY BILLING TRANSPARENCY ACT

1 This act would impose requirements and actions that electric distribution companies and
2 gas distribution companies having over one hundred thousand (100,000) customers would need to
3 take prior to implementing rate changes. The act would also add additional requirements of
4 providing explanations and annual reports with information on costs contributing to rate
5 adjustments, for the purpose of providing greater transparency to customers and consumers of
6 electricity and gas.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC001810
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2025 -- H 5106

LC000093

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - REGULATORY POWERS OF
ADMINISTRATION

Introduced By: Representatives J. Lombardi, Hull, Ajello, Potter, Voas, Stewart, and
Felix

Date Introduced: January 22, 2025

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 39-3 of the General Laws entitled "Regulatory Powers of
2 Administration" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **39-3-45. Electric rates tied to the consumer price index.**

4 (a) Notwithstanding any provisions of the general laws to the contrary, any increase in rates
5 proposed to be charged by an electric distribution company as defined in chapter 1 of this title, shall
6 be no greater than five and one-half percent (5.5%) or the percentage increase in the Consumer
7 Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) as published by the United States Department of
8 Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics determined as of September 30 of the prior calendar year,
9 whichever is greater, unless the increase shall have been previously approved by affirmative action
10 of the general assembly.

11 (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any electric distribution company
12 having fewer than seven thousand five hundred (7,500) electricity customer accounts.

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

LC000093

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - REGULATORY POWERS OF
ADMINISTRATION

- 1 This act would provide that any rate increase with respect to electric distribution companies
2 would be no greater than the increase in the Consumer Price Index or five and one-half percent
3 (5.5%), whichever is greater, unless there is approval of a higher rate by the general assembly.
4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC000093
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