

ASSEMBLY, No. 1882

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Provides electric public utility customers' right to decline installation of smart meter under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning certain electric public utility equipment and
2 supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

9 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities or any successor
10 agency.

11 “Electric public utility” or “utility” means a public utility, as that
12 term is defined in R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric distribution
13 service.

14 “Electric-related service” means a service that is directly related
15 to the consumption of electricity by a customer, and the provision
16 of energy consumption measurement and billing services.

17 “Customer” means the person identified in the account records of
18 an electric public utility as the person responsible for payment of a
19 bill for electric-related service.

20 “Smart meter” means an electric meter that identifies a
21 customer’s electricity consumption in greater detail than a
22 conventional meter in order to provide a customer with real-time
23 usage information and pricing data on at least an hourly basis,
24 record and store hourly usage data, report on the status of the
25 electric supply for the customer’s premises, and turn electric-related
26 service to the customer’s premises on or off through remote
27 disconnection or connection of service.

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29 2. a. An electric public utility shall not install a smart meter at
30 the customer’s premises prior to the utility providing written notice
31 to the customer, in a manner determined by the board, no less than
32 90 days prior to the scheduled installation of a smart meter. A
33 customer of an electric public utility may decline the utility’s
34 request to install a smart meter at the customer’s premises for the
35 duration of the customer’s account with the utility.

36 b. (1) If a customer of an electric public utility elects to
37 decline having a smart meter installed at the customer’s premises
38 within 30 days of receiving written notice from the utility, the
39 utility shall not assess to that customer a fee, penalty, or service
40 charge for that decision for the duration of the customer’s account.

41 (2) If a customer of an electric public utility elects to decline
42 having a smart meter installed at the customer’s premises after 30
43 days but within 90 days of receiving written notice from the utility,
44 the utility shall not assess to that customer a fee, penalty, or service
45 charge of more than \$100 for that decision for the duration of the
46 customer’s account.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
2 inoperative for 60 days following the date of enactment.

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6 STATEMENT

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8 This bill prohibits an electric public utility (utility) from
9 installing a “smart meter,” as that term is defined in the bill, at a
10 customer’s premises prior to the utility providing written notice to
11 the customer, in a manner determined by the Board of Public
12 Utilities, no less than 90 days prior to the scheduled installation of a
13 smart meter. The bill allows a utility customer to decline the
14 utility’s request to install a smart meter at the customer’s premises
15 for the duration of the customer’s account with the utility.

16 If a utility customer elects to decline having a smart meter
17 installed at the customer’s premises within 30 days of receiving
18 written notice from the utility, the utility is not to assess the
19 customer a fee, penalty, or service charge for that decision for the
20 duration of the customer’s account. If a utility customer elects to
21 decline having a smart meter installed at the customer’s premises
22 after 30 days but within 90 days of receiving written notice from the
23 utility, the utility is not to assess the customer a fee, penalty, or
24 service charge of more than \$100 for that decision for the duration
25 of the customer’s account.