

ASSEMBLY, No. 5263

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GERARD SCHARFENBERGER

District 13 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires electric public utility to reimburse cost of certain customer-owned electric service equipment if damage to equipment is due to weather event affecting electric public utility service.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning the replacement of certain electric service
2 equipment and 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 "Customer" means a customer of record of an electric public
12 utility.

13 "Customer-owned electric service equipment" or "service
14 equipment" means any cable, line, wire, and other appurtenant
15 equipment, including a weatherhead and insulator, service entrance
16 cable, customer conduit, meter base or box, and fuse or circuit
17 breaker box, owned by a customer, and used for the provision of
18 electric service to a building owned by the customer. "Customer-
19 owned electric service equipment" shall not include the interior
20 electric wiring distributing electricity through a building owned by
21 a customer.

22 "Distribution line" means a cable, line, wire, service drop, and
23 other appurtenant equipment for the provision of electric
24 distribution service from a substation of an electric public utility to
25 a building or structure of a customer.

26 "Electric public utility" or "utility" means a public utility, as that
27 term is defined in R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric distribution
28 service in this State.

29 "Sustained interruption" means the cessation of electric public
30 utility service to one or more customers lasting more than 12
31 consecutive hours during or after the conclusion of a weather event
32 where the electric public utility service cessation was caused by that
33 weather event.

34 "Weather event" means an occurrence arising from conditions
35 beyond the control of an electric public utility that affect the
36 operation of an electric public utility's distribution system,
37 including, but not limited to, a thunderstorm, tornado, hurricane,
38 flood, heat wave, snow storm, ice storm, earthquake, or any other
39 condition that the board determines, which results in a sustained
40 interruption of utility service.

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42 2. The board shall adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative
43 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and
44 regulations requiring an electric public utility to reimburse a
45 customer for the full cost of the purchase and installation of
46 customer-owned electric service equipment, if the effects of a
47 weather event, including, but not limited to, a power surge from a
48 downed distribution line, caused the service equipment to fail or not

1 function properly, and the damage was not due to the fault of the
2 customer, as determined by the board based upon the result of an
3 investigation conducted by the board.

4
5 3. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after the date of
6 enactment, but the Board of Public Utilities may take any
7 anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be
8 necessary for the timely implementation of P.L. , c. (C.)
9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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12 STATEMENT
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14 This bill requires the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to adopt
15 rules and regulations requiring an electric public utility (utility) to
16 reimburse a customer for the full cost of the purchase and
17 installation of customer-owned electric service equipment (service
18 equipment), if the effects of a weather event, including, but not
19 limited to, a power surge from a downed distribution line, caused
20 the service equipment to fail or not function properly, and the
21 damage was not due to the fault of the customer, as determined by
22 the BPU based upon the result of an investigation conducted by the
23 BPU. The bill defines “customer-owned electric service
24 equipment,” “distribution line,” and “weather event.”