

ASSEMBLY, No. 5876

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 14, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Requires electric public utility to replace certain distribution service equipment over period of 36 months if certain sustained service interruptions occur.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

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

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

10 “Back yard distribution equipment” means distribution
11 equipment located within the rear portion of any residential
12 property where an electric public utility has an easement.

13 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities or any successor
14 agency.

15 “Distribution equipment” means a cable, line, wire, and other
16 appurtenant equipment for the provision of electric distribution
17 service from a substation of an electric public utility to a building or
18 structure of a customer of the utility.

19 “Electric public utility” or “utility” means a public utility, as that
20 term is defined in R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric distribution
21 service in this State.

22 “Sustained service interruption” means the cessation of electric
23 public utility service to one or more customers lasting more than
24 two consecutive hours in length.

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26 2. The board shall adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative
27 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and
28 regulations requiring an electric public utility to establish a
29 timeline, not to exceed 36 months, for the replacement of the
30 utility’s back yard distribution equipment within a municipality, if
31 the utility provides electric distribution service using back yard
32 distribution equipment to at least 50 percent of the residences of the
33 municipality and if residential customers provided with electric
34 distribution service using back yard distribution equipment within
35 that municipality reported to the utility at least 250 incidents of a
36 sustained service interruption each year for the previous five-year
37 period. An electric public utility providing electric distribution
38 service using back yard distribution equipment to at least 50 percent
39 of the residences of a municipality shall annually provide notice to
40 the board, as determined by the board, of the number of incidents
41 during the prior year of a sustained service interruption reported by
42 the utility’s residential customers provided with electric distribution
43 service using back yard distribution equipment within that
44 municipality.

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46 3. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after the date of
47 enactment, but the Board of Public Utilities may take any
48 anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be

1 necessary for the timely implementation of P.L. , c. (C.)
2 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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STATEMENT

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7 This bill requires the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to adopt
8 rules and regulations requiring an electric public utility (utility) to
9 establish a timeline, not to exceed 36 months, for the replacement
10 of the utility’s “back yard distribution equipment,” as defined in the
11 bill, within a municipality if the utility provides electric distribution
12 service using back yard distribution equipment to at least 50 percent
13 of the residences of the municipality and if residential customers
14 provided with electric distribution service using back yard
15 distribution equipment within that municipality reported to the
16 utility at least 250 incidents of a “sustained service interruption,” as
17 defined in the bill, each year for the previous five-year period. An
18 electric public utility providing electric distribution service using
19 back yard distribution equipment to at least 50 percent of the
20 residences of a municipality shall annually provide notice to the
21 board, as determined by the board, of the number of incidents
22 during the prior year of a sustained service interruption reported by
23 the utility’s residential customers provided with electric distribution
24 service using back yard distribution equipment within that
25 municipality.