

SENATE, No. 3619

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 19, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator HOLLY T. SCHEPISI

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

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District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2021)

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 decline
37 having a smart meter installed at the customer’s premises within 30
38 days of receiving written notice from the utility, the utility shall not
39 assess to that customer a fee, penalty, or service charge for that
40 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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STATEMENT

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

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