

SUMMARY OF NO. 25-44

This proposed law would create new utility metering requirements applicable to electric, gas, and water distribution companies.

Under the proposed law, utility customers could retain any existing electromechanical analog meter, request removal of a wireless meter and installation of an analog meter, or request installation of an analog meter at the start of service. The proposed law would define electromechanical analog meter to mean a mechanical and electrical metering device without wireless components, and it would define wireless meter to mean a device capable of transmitting or receiving usage data via wireless signals

Utility companies would be required to maintain records of the type of meter at each customer location and provide that information upon request. If analog meters were not in stock, utility companies would be required to obtain and install them within 60 days of a written customer request.

Utility companies could not install or activate a wireless meter or equivalent technology without a customer's affirmative written consent. Within 90 days of the law taking effect, utility companies would be required to notify customers in writing whether their existing meter is wireless or includes equivalent technology, that no state or federal law requires

wireless meters, that an analog meter may be requested at no cost, and that service cannot be denied, altered, or conditioned on acceptance of a wireless meter. The notice would include a statement advising customers of the availability of a non-wireless analog meter without fees, penalties, or service changes.

The proposed law would prohibit utility companies from charging fees or imposing penalties for selecting an analog meter, altering or denying service based on metering preference, conditioning service on wireless meters, refusing accommodations for customers with documented objections to wireless meters, or installing wireless meters or equivalent technology on or near premises without consent.

The Department of Public Utilities would be required to adopt regulations to implement these provisions. Enforcement of these provisions would be subject to appropriation.

The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.