SUMMARY OF NO. 25-45

This proposed law would require a ratepayer's affirmative, written consent to costs not directly related to the physical delivery of electricity, which would include any charge not directly and exclusively related to the operation and maintenance of infrastructure necessary to deliver electricity.

The proposed law would prohibit the Department of Public Utilities from authorizing utility companies to charge ratepayers for costs associated with net metering, renewable energy incentives, clean energy programs, tariff structures supporting such programs, or funding for renewable energy project development without the ratepayer's affirmative, written election to receive those charges.

The proposed law would limit non-delivery-related charges for ratepayers who have not opted in to no more than five percent of the total monthly bill.

Utility bills would be required to list delivery charges in a separate group from all other charges, with each delivery charge showing its statutory or regulatory basis, the administering agency or program, the amount for the current billing period, and the cumulative total paid year-to-date.

The Department of Public Utilities would be required to adopt regulations to verify written consent to charges and to ensure that utilities are not billing ratepayers for services which they have not authorized.

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