

2025 -- H 5969

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS
TAKE ACTION TO ADDRESS HIGH UTILITY BILLS FOR RESIDENTS AND
BUSINESSES IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, Cotter, Tanzi, Alzate, Donovan, Boylan,
Kislak, Dawson, Furtado, and Noret

Date Introduced: February 28, 2025

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

1 WHEREAS, Access to affordable and reliable utility services, including electricity and
2 gas, is essential for the well-being of Rhode Island residents and the economic vitality of
3 businesses; and

4 WHEREAS, Many residents and businesses have experienced significant increases in
5 their utility bills, placing an undue financial burden on them; and

6 WHEREAS, These sudden dramatic increases in utility costs disproportionately affect
7 low-income families, seniors on fixed incomes, and small businesses; and

8 WHEREAS, The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Division of Public Utilities
9 and Carriers (DPUC) are tasked with “ensuring just and reasonable rates” for consumers; and

10 WHEREAS, Because of the financial hardship created by the recent steep increases in
11 electricity and gas bills, it is in the public interest for the Public Utilities Commission to work to
12 provide immediate relief to ratepayers; and

13 WHEREAS, In neighboring Massachusetts, the Division of Public Utilities, at the urging
14 of the legislature and the Governor, has entered into talks with the utilities there to revise delivery
15 rates to provide immediate relief for customers; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
17 respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers takes similar
18 immediate and meaningful action to address the burden of high utility bills by seeking similar rate
19 relief from Rhode Island Energy for Rhode Island’s ratepayers; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That this House hereby further requests that the DPUC report to the
2 Speaker of the House on or before April 22nd, 2025, on the progress and outcomes of these
3 actions; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
5 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Administrator of the Rhode Island Division
6 of Public Utilities and Carriers.

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