

2025 -- S 0899

LC000905

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- REGULATORY POWERS OF
ADMINISTRATION

Introduced By: Senators Lawson, Euer, Gallo, DiMario, Bissaillon, Felag, Burke, Britto,
Tikoian, and Murray

Date Introduced: March 27, 2025

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-3-7.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-3 entitled "Regulatory
2 Powers of Administration" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-3-7.1. Prohibited practices.**

4 The use of electrical "master-meters," so-called, in apartment or tenement houses, mobile
5 home parks, or other similar residential complexes is permitted; ~~containing more than ten (10)~~
6 ~~apartments or dwelling units is hereby prohibited;~~ provided, however, that whenever a master-
7 meter customer provides electricity to users who are tenants of such a residential complex, the
8 master-meter customer shall not charge the user tenants a rate in excess of the rate that would apply
9 if such users received electricity directly from a public utility ~~this section shall only apply to~~
10 ~~apartment houses, construction of which is commenced after July 1, 1977. Each apartment or~~
11 ~~dwelling unit shall have a measuring device or meter for the purpose of measuring the electricity~~
12 ~~used only by that apartment. The commission shall promulgate all necessary rules and regulations~~
13 ~~to carry out the purposes and provisions of this section; provided, however, that this section shall~~
14 ~~not apply to the multifamily dwellings constructed for the exclusive use of persons who are elderly~~
15 ~~and/or disabled through public financing, whenever the organization sponsoring the construction~~
16 ~~shall elect to use a single meter for all, or designated portions, of the housing.~~

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would prohibit charging any rate in excess of the rate that would apply if a tenant
2 of any residential complex with electrical master-meters received electricity directly from a public
3 utility. This act would further amend the law in that its application would be for all residential
4 tenants, regardless of the size of the complex or the age or disability of its residents.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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