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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Jabour, Lombardi, Conley, and Satchell

Date Introduced: January 13, 2015

Referred To: Senate Commerce

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 39-3 of the General Laws entitled "Regulatory Powers of  
2 Administration" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **39-3-45. Electric rates tied to the consumer price index. – (a) Notwithstanding any**  
4 **provisions of the general laws to the contrary, any increase in rates proposed to be charged by an**  
5 **electric distribution company as defined in chapter 1 of this title, shall be no greater than five and**  
6 **one-half percent (5.5%) or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban**  
7 **Consumers (CPI-U) as published by the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor**  
8 **Statistics determined as of September 30 of the prior calendar year, whichever is greater, unless**  
9 **the increase shall have been previously approved by affirmative action of the general assembly.**

10 **(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any electric distribution company**  
11 **having fewer than seven thousand five hundred (7,500) electricity customer accounts.**

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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ADMINISTRATION

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1           This act would provide that any rate increase with respect to electric distribution  
2 companies would be no greater than the increase in the Consumer Price Index or five and one-  
3 half percent (5.5%), whichever is greater, without prior approval of the general assembly.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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