

2026 -- H 7412

LC004661

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Representative Rebecca M. Kislak

Date Introduced: January 30, 2026

Referred To: House Corporations

(by request)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

**39-3-37.4. Electric and gas meter reading required quarterly.**

(a) Every electric and natural gas distribution public utility shall read, record and update  
utility billing on quarterly scheduled intervals. Bills shall be forwarded promptly.

(b) A utility company which estimates bills shall file with the PUC a current, simple, clear  
and concise statement of their formula used in preparing estimated bills.

(1) Estimated bills for ratepayers shall consist of charges for utility services calculated in  
accordance with the formula approved by the PUC.

(2) Estimated bills may be submitted to ratepayers for months when the quarterly reading  
is not scheduled or conducted.

(c) In the event the utility fails to read the meter on a quarterly basis, they shall not demand,  
collect or require payment of any balance in excess of the amount required by the prior estimated  
monthly bills. Any amount otherwise due for use in excess of the estimated monthly bill shall be  
forfeited for any period in which the electric or natural gas distribution utility failed to read the  
ratepayer's meter.

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 require a natural gas and electric utility company to read the meters of all  
2   ratepayers on a quarterly basis. The utility would be required to provide a formula, used to create  
3   estimated bills, to the PUC in order to send estimated bills.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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