

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 8 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Bentz, Dembrow, Johnson, Reardon, Vega Pederson, Weidner, Whitsett, Bailey

Nays: 0

Exc.: Boone

Prepared By: Adam Crawford, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/23, 4/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes public utility to issue bill or refund to customer if customer was underbilled or overbilled for services provided within one year period provided that one year period did not occur more than two years before the date on which public utility identified the incorrect bill. Provides exemption for public utilities in case of customer fraud, tampering, diversion, theft, misinformation or other dishonest or unlawful conduct.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Examples of underbilling
- Present Public Utility Commission rule
- Potential causes of faulty billing

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Incorrect billing can result from faulty or misread meters or simple mathematical errors. Under current Public Utility Commission rule, a bill for services provided previously can be issued up to six months later when an exact date of usage cannot be identified, or up to three years later when the exact date of usage can be identified. Senate Bill 237 A replaces previous overrides the previous rule, deals with the issue of underbilling or overbilling and sets statutory limits on collection of incorrect billings.