

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: None

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires both public and private electric and gas utilities to report on processes available to mitigate termination of specified residential customers’ service for failure to pay during peak usage, by November 1, 2015. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

[-A3 amendment] Removes Department of Energy. Requires each electrical cooperative, municipal utility, and people’s utility district to report to their respective governing body instead.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2599-A requires a report from both public and private electric and gas utilities, on what process is offered to certain residential customers, to avoid termination of services during peak usage for failure to pay. Public utilities will report to the Public Utility Commission, and the governing body of each electrical cooperative, municipal utility, and people’s utility district, will report to the Department of Energy. Residential customers specified for reporting purposes are those who receive state or federal energy assistance and are: low-income seniors, active duty servicemembers, households that include a seriously ill or disabled person, households with a child under the age of 12 months, and households where the primary financial provider has died or become unemployed within the past six months.

House Committee: 7 – 0 – 0

House Floor: 41- 19 – 0