

Legislative Analysis



REGULATED UTILITIES & AESs: COMPLY WITH PSC RULES AND TELL CUSTOMERS ABOUT PROTECTIONS

Mitchell Bean, Director
Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4384 (Proposed Substitute H-1)
Sponsor: Rep. Dan Scripps

House Bill 4662 (Proposed Substitute H-1)
Sponsor: Rep. Tim Melton
Committee: Energy and Technology

Complete to 3-26-09

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 4384 & 4662 (Proposed H-1 Substitutes)

The bills would amend the Public Service Commission Law to require a provider (defined in these bills as *an electric utility, cooperative electric utility, alternative electric supplier, or an investor-owned, rate-regulated natural gas utility*) to do the following things:

House Bill 4662 (Proposed Substitute H-1) would require a provider to comply with shut-off protections for senior citizens and low-income customers found in Public Service Commissions rules. (MCL 460.9d)

House Bill 4384 (Proposed Substitute H-1) would require a provider to supply information about the following to customers at least twice a year:

- Federal and state energy assistance programs and their eligibility requirements.
- Medical emergency protections.
- Military shut-off protections.
- Low-income protections.
- Senior citizen protections.

Allowable methods. In general, a provider could transmit this information in the same manner as the customer's billing, and would be specifically authorized to use any of the following methods: (1) customer bills, (2) bill inserts, (3) customer newsletters, (4) public forums, (5) newspaper announcements, or (5) electronic communications. Cooperative electric utilities could also use a rural electric cooperative periodical. The PSC could add additional methods. (MCL 460.9j)

FISCAL IMPACT:

A fiscal analysis is in process.

Legislative Analyst: Shannan Kane
Fiscal Analyst: Mark Wolf

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