

HB 2559 -- UTILITY METERS

SPONSOR: Remole

This bill allows a utility customer to choose between the placement or use of a traditional meter or an advanced meter regardless of the utility that provides service to that customer. A utility shall not do any of the following:

- (1) Make the provision of any portion of utility service to a customer contingent upon the customer's receiving service through any meter or similar device other than a traditional meter;
- (2) Impose any fee or disincentive on a customer for opting out of or not accepting the installation of an advanced meter or hub meter or use of advanced meter function; or
- (3) Install an advanced meter or upgrade the functionality of the advanced meter after the effective date of this section unless the customer has been properly notified and has not opted out of the installation or new functionality. If a customer has not opted out of the installation, an on-site utility worker or his or her agent shall nevertheless not install an advanced meter or upgrade the functionality of the advanced meter if the customer orally informs the worker at the time of installation not to install the advanced meter or additional functionality.

The commission shall promulgate opt-out procedures that shall be composed of simple, easy-to-understand steps that an average customer can easily understand that do not place any undue burden on the customer. After being notified that they can opt out, customers shall be provided with at least forty-five days to communicate with the utility their desire to opt out, with a clear deadline listed on the notice.

Within 30 days after receiving a customer's request that an advanced meter be removed from the customer's residence or business, unless emergency conditions prevent the utility from doing so, a utility shall remove the advanced meter and replace it with a traditional meter. A utility shall not charge a monthly fee for using a traditional meter unless the customer is offered the opportunity, but is unwilling, to read and report the customer's usage. Any fee for using a traditional meter shall not exceed \$5 per month.

A utility or any of its agents may report any customer data, including energy use data and Internet user information, to the commission. A utility may report data relating to electric or compressed natural gas vehicle fueling to the Department of

Revenue. That information shall be used by the Department of Revenue strictly for taxation purposes, shall not be shared with law enforcement without a warrant, and is not subject to disclosure under Chapter 610, RSMo, except for aggregate data used for research purposes in a nonidentifying manner.

A utility shall not remotely shut off service to a customer unless both of the following requirements are met:

(1) At least forty-eight hours before shutoff, a utility representative verifies that the property to which the service is to be shut off is the correct address and follows all other shutoff procedures required by law; and

(2) The utility has a security program intended to prevent unintentional shutoff that is approved by the commission.

The commission shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of the bill.