

SENATE BILL NO. 1712

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MCCREERY.

7274S.031

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 386, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to the regulation of public utilities.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 386, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 two new sections, to be known as sections 386.381 and 386.620,
3 to read as follows:

386.381. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to
2 the contrary, all ratemaking determinations by the
3 commission shall be just and reasonable and shall also be
4 based upon a finding that any change in a utility rate will
5 not be unduly burdensome to the current affordability of
6 utility services to customers. For purposes of this
7 section, "just and reasonable", as it relates to a utility
8 rate or charge, shall mean that the rate or charge shall
9 result in the lowest possible ratepayer impact that is
10 necessary for the utility to provide safe and adequate
11 service.

386.620. 1. For purposes of this section, the
2 following terms mean:

3 (1) "Commission", the Missouri public service
4 commission;

5 (2) "Public utility", the same as defined in section
6 386.020.

7 2. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to
8 the contrary, any public hearing by the commission held for
9 the receipt of evidentiary testimony from members of the
10 public for purposes of a general rate proceeding shall be
11 subject to the following requirements:

12 (1) At least one local public hearing shall be
13 reasonably close to the residence of each utility customer
14 located within the geographical area served by the public
15 utility proposing a rate increase in the general rate
16 proceeding;

17 (2) Notice of the local public hearing shall be mailed
18 to the physical address of every utility customer under
19 subdivision (1) of this subsection by first class mail and
20 shall be mailed at least fourteen days prior to the hearing;

21 (3) Any affected ratepayer from the proposed rate
22 increase in the general rate proceeding may testify at the
23 public hearing and may file statements regarding the subject
24 matter of the hearing with the person or persons conducting
25 the hearing;

26 (4) Any testimony or filed statements shall become
27 part of the commission's evidentiary record during the
28 general rate proceeding under this section;

29 (5) The commission shall give each member of the
30 public a reasonable amount of time to testify before the
31 commission during the public hearing; and

32 (6) In the general rate proceeding, the final order of
33 the commission shall include findings that describe how the
34 commission's decision was impacted by the testimony and
35 comments received from members of the public during the
36 public hearing.

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