

FEB 25 2000

COMMERCE AND REGULATION

HOUSE FILE
BY THOMAS

2464

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the sale of customer information by a public
2 utility and providing a civil penalty.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2464

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 476.3A CUSTOMER INFORMATION --
2 NOTICE REQUIREMENTS -- CIVIL PENALTY.

3 1. A public utility, at least once annually, shall provide
4 a written statement to the public utility's customers of the
5 utility's policy regarding the sale or other disposition of
6 customer information to other persons. The written statement
7 shall be provided to the public utility's customers no less
8 than sixty days prior to any change in the policy. The
9 written statement shall explain the change, and state the
10 effective date of the change, and whether or not the public
11 utility has provided a written statement pursuant to this
12 section within the previous year. The written statement shall
13 provide the address and telephone number of a person whom the
14 customer can contact to request that information regarding the
15 customer not be sold to any other person by the public
16 utility. Upon the receipt of such a request, the public
17 utility shall not sell or otherwise provide information to any
18 other person regarding the customer making the request.

19 The written statement shall include the address and phone
20 number of the board and state that a complaint regarding the
21 sale of customer information may be made to the board. The
22 written statement shall also state that a public utility that
23 sells or otherwise provides customer information to another
24 person in violation of this section may be subject to a civil
25 penalty of one thousand dollars.

26 2. A public utility violating this section is subject to a
27 civil penalty of one thousand dollars for each violation.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill provides that a public utility, at least once
30 annually, shall provide a written statement to the customers
31 of the public utility regarding the public utility's policy
32 regarding the sale or other disposition of customer
33 information to other persons. The bill provides that a
34 written statement shall be provided to the public utility's
35 customers no less than 60 days prior to any change in such

1 policy. The written statement shall explain the change, state
2 the effective date of the change, and whether or not the
3 public utility has provided a written statement within the
4 previous year. The bill provides that the written statement
5 is to provide the address and telephone number of a person
6 whom the customer can contact to request that information
7 regarding such customer not be sold to any other person by the
8 public utility, and that upon receiving such request, the
9 public utility shall not sell or otherwise provide information
10 regarding the customer making the request to any other person.
11 The bill provides that the written statement must include the
12 address and phone number of the board and state that a
13 complaint regarding the sale of customer information may be
14 made to the board. The bill provides that a public utility
15 violating this section is subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000
16 for each violation.

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