

House File 465 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 465

BY HANSON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to customer choice regarding the installation
2 of certain public utility meters.

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

1 Section 1. Section 476.6, Code 2013, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 23. *a.* On and after July 1, 2013, a
4 public utility shall not install a smart meter at a customer's
5 residence or place of business without first providing the
6 customer the opportunity to consent to the installation or to
7 refuse such consent, and shall offer to remove a smart meter
8 free of charge which was installed without the customer being
9 provided that opportunity. A public utility shall not offer to
10 provide or provide discounted rates to customers in exchange
11 for obtaining the customer's consent to install a smart meter,
12 and shall not charge a fee, assessment, or higher rate to
13 customers choosing not to consent to such an installation. The
14 board shall adopt rules to implement this subsection.

15 *b.* For the purposes of this subsection, "*smart meter*"
16 means a public utility meter which is interconnected through a
17 secured internet network connection, telephone connection, or
18 radio frequency connection between a customer's residence or
19 business and the public utility, facilitating more accurate and
20 accessible information regarding energy, water, or gas usage;
21 peak event notifications; and reports and savings summaries.

22 EXPLANATION

23 This bill provides that on and after July 1, 2013, a public
24 utility shall not install a smart meter at a customer's
25 residence or place of business without first providing the
26 customer the opportunity to consent to the installation or to
27 refuse such consent, and shall offer to remove a smart meter
28 free of charge which was installed without the customer being
29 provided that opportunity. The bill also provides that a
30 public utility shall not offer to provide or provide discounted
31 rates to customers in exchange for obtaining the customer's
32 consent to install a smart meter, and shall not charge a fee,
33 assessment, or higher rate to customers choosing not to consent
34 to such an installation. The bill directs the Iowa utilities
35 board to adopt rules to implement the bill's provisions.

1 The bill defines a "smart meter" to mean a public utility
2 meter which is interconnected through a secured internet
3 network connection, telephone connection, or radio frequency
4 connection between a customer's residence or business and the
5 public utility, facilitating more accurate and accessible
6 information regarding energy, water, or gas usage; peak event
7 notifications; and reports and savings summaries.