

House File 154 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 154

BY SHIPLEY

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 2019, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 22. *Public utility meters — customer*
4 *choice.*

5 a. (1) A public utility shall not install a digital meter
6 or smart meter at a customer's residence or place of business
7 on or after July 1, 2019, without first providing the customer
8 with educational information regarding the full scope of
9 the digital meter or smart meter's functioning and effects,
10 including but not limited to health and safety warnings, and
11 the opportunity to consent to the installation or refuse such
12 consent by electing to keep or receive an electromechanical
13 analog meter instead of the digital meter or smart meter.

14 (2) A public utility shall offer to replace a digital meter
15 or smart meter with an electromechanical analog meter free of
16 charge and at any time upon a customer's request.

17 (3) A public utility shall not offer to provide or provide
18 discounted rates to customers in exchange for obtaining the
19 customer's consent to install a digital meter or smart meter,
20 and shall not charge a fee, assessment, or higher rate to any
21 customer choosing not to consent to the installation of a
22 digital meter or smart meter, or requesting the replacement of
23 a digital meter or smart meter with an electromechanical analog
24 meter.

25 (4) The board shall adopt rules to implement this
26 subsection.

27 b. For purposes of this subsection:

28 (1) "*Digital meter*" means a public utility meter which uses
29 electronic components and produces conducted emissions.

30 (2) "*Electromechanical analog meter*" means a public
31 utility meter which is purely electric and mechanical, uses
32 no electronic components, has no radio frequency or conducted
33 emissions, and is not upgraded to function as a digital meter
34 or smart meter.

35 (3) "*Smart meter*" means an advanced metering infrastructure

1 device which uses radio or other wireless means for two-way
2 communication between the device and a public utility, an
3 advanced meter reading device using radio or other wireless
4 means for one-way communication between the device and a public
5 utility, or any public utility meter that emits wireless
6 radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation or requires a direct
7 current to operate.

8

EXPLANATION

9 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
10 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

11 This bill relates to customer choice regarding the
12 installation of certain public utility meters.

13 The bill defines "digital meter" to mean a public utility
14 meter which uses electronic components and produces conducted
15 emissions. "Electromechanical analog meter" is defined as a
16 public utility meter which is purely electric and mechanical,
17 uses no electronic components, has no radio frequency or
18 conducted emissions, and is not upgraded to function as a
19 digital meter or smart meter. "Smart meter" is defined as a
20 device which uses radio or other wireless means for two-way or
21 one-way communication between the device and a public utility,
22 or any public utility meter that emits wireless radiofrequency
23 electromagnetic radiation or requires a direct current to
24 operate.

25 The bill provides that a public utility shall not install a
26 digital meter or smart meter at a customer's residence or place
27 of business on or after July 1, 2019, without first providing
28 the customer with educational information regarding the
29 full scope of the meter's functioning and effects, including
30 health and safety warnings, and the opportunity to consent
31 to the installation or refuse such consent by electing to
32 keep or receive an electromechanical analog meter instead of
33 the digital meter or smart meter. A public utility shall
34 offer to replace a digital meter or smart meter with an
35 electromechanical analog meter free of charge and at any time

1 upon a customer's request. A public utility shall not offer to
2 provide or provide discounted rates to customers in exchange
3 for obtaining consent to install a digital meter or smart
4 meter, and shall not charge a fee, assessment, or higher rate
5 to any customer choosing not to consent to the installation of
6 a digital meter or smart meter, or requesting the replacement
7 of such meter with an electromechanical analog meter. The bill
8 directs the Iowa utilities board to adopt rules to implement
9 the bill's provisions.