

Senate File 2160 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2160

BY ZUMBACH

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to public utility billing practices.

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

1 Section 1. Section 476.1A, subsection 2, Code 2020, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. However, sections 476.8A, 476.20, subsections 1 through
4 4, 476.21, 476.51, 476.56, 476.62, and 476.66 and chapters
5 476A and 478, to the extent applicable, apply to such electric
6 utilities.

7 Sec. 2. Section 476.1B, subsection 1, Code 2020, is amended
8 by adding the following new paragraph:

9 NEW PARAGRAPH. *m.* Enforcement of section 476.8A.

10 Sec. 3. Section 476.1B, subsection 3, Code 2020, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 3. Unless otherwise specifically provided by statute, a
13 municipally owned utility providing local exchange services
14 is not subject to regulation by the board under this chapter
15 except for regulatory action pertaining to the enforcement
16 of sections 476.8A, 476.95, 476.95A, 476.95B, 476.100, and
17 476.102.

18 Sec. 4. Section 476.1C, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
19 2020, is amended to read as follows:

20 *a.* Are not subject to the regulation authority of
21 the utilities board under this chapter unless otherwise
22 specifically provided. Sections 476.8A, 476.10, 476.20,
23 476.21, and 476.51 apply to such gas utilities.

24 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **476.8A Public utility billing —**
25 **impermissible charges.**

26 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
27 a public utility shall not charge a customer for, or attempt to
28 collect from a customer, any amounts attributable to services
29 provided by the public utility to the customer more than one
30 year ago, unless, as part of its normal billing practices, the
31 public utility previously attempted to collect the amounts
32 within one year after the public utility provided the services.
33 For purposes of this section, "*public utility*" includes a
34 person who furnishes solid waste collection to the public for
35 compensation.

1

EXPLANATION

2

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

3

4 This bill relates to the billing practices of providers of
5 public utilities.

6 In addition to the definition of "public utility" provided
7 in Code section 476.1A, the bill defines a "public utility" to
8 include a person who furnishes solid waste collection to the
9 public for compensation.

10 The bill prohibits a public utility from charging a customer
11 for services provided by the public utility to the customer
12 more than one year ago, unless, as part of its normal billing
13 practices, the public utility previously attempted to collect
14 on the charges associated with such services within one year
15 after the public utility provided the services.

16 The bill also amends Code sections 476.1A, subsection
17 2; 476.1B, subsections 1 and 3; and 476.1C, subsection 1,
18 paragraph "a", to provide that this prohibition applies to
19 electric public utilities having fewer than 10,000 customers,
20 electric cooperative corporations and associations, municipally
21 owned utilities furnishing gas or electricity, municipally
22 owned utilities providing local exchange services, and gas
23 public utilities having fewer than 2,000 customers.