

FILED FEB 09 2006

COMMERCE

SENATE FILE 2197  
BY KREIMAN

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act to prohibit certain alternate billing services by gas  
2 public utilities and making penalties applicable.

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

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COMMERCE  
SF 2197

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 476.58 ALTERNATE BILLING -- GAS  
2 UTILITIES.

3 A gas public utility providing natural gas service in this  
4 state shall not offer or provide any alternate billing service  
5 to allow a customer to pay a locked-in or guaranteed payment  
6 for natural gas service to the gas public utility if the  
7 alternate billing service does not provide for the refund of  
8 overpayments in the event the alternate billing service  
9 results in the customer paying more for natural gas service  
10 than under traditional or budget billing.

11 EXPLANATION

12 This bill prohibits a gas public utility from offering or  
13 providing certain alternate billing services. The bill  
14 prohibits an alternate billing service that allows a customer  
15 to pay a locked-in or guaranteed payment for natural gas  
16 service but does not provide for the refund of any  
17 overpayments to the customer where the alternate billing  
18 service results in the customer paying more for receiving gas  
19 service from the utility than the customer would have paid if  
20 the customer had chosen traditional or budget billing.

21 Pursuant to Code section 476.51, the Iowa utilities board  
22 may assess a civil penalty in an amount not less than \$100 or  
23 more than \$2,500 for a violation of any provision of Code  
24 chapter 476. The board may assess a civil penalty for a  
25 willful violation of any provision of Code chapter 476 in an  
26 amount of not less than \$1,000 or more than \$10,000.

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