S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

1285

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 28, 2009

Introduced by Sen. O. JOHNSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to direct the New York state energy research and development authority to study and report upon the best technology to enable blind and visually impaired utility customers to read their meters; and to amend the public service law, in relation to directing the public service commission to promulgate rules and regulations requiring the implementation of such technologies by utilities

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The New York state energy research and development authority is hereby authorized and directed to study and evaluate the best existing technologies and equipment which could be implemented by utility corporations and municipalities to enable and facilitate blind and visually impaired customers to determine the actual reading of such customers' water meters, electric meters and/or gas meters.

S 2. Within 180 days of the effective date of this act, the New York state energy research and development authority shall issue and make public a report on the findings of its study and evaluation conducted pursuant to section one of this act. Such report shall include the recommendations of such authority on the feasible, best technologies and equipment available for use by utilities, and blind and visually impaired utility customers to assist such customers in determining the actual readings of their utility meters. In addition, such report and recommendations shall be submitted to the governor, public service commission and legislature.

S 3. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 39-a to read as follows:

S 39-A. METERING; BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED UTILITY CUSTOMERS. WITHIN TWO HUNDRED TEN DAYS OF THE COMMISSION'S RECEIPT OF THE REPORT ISSUED

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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BY THE NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO OF THE CHAPTER OF THE LAWS OF TWO THOUSAND NINE WHICH ADDED THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMULGATE AND IMPLEMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS WHICH IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUCH REPORT. SUCH RULES AND REGULATIONS MAY BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME TO REFLECT ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT.

S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.