

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1851

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 17, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to permitting the rendering of an estimated bill from a utility corporation or municipality under certain circumstances

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 39 of the public service law, as  
2 amended by chapter 686 of the laws of 2002, is amended and a new subdivi-  
3 sion 1-a is added to read as follows:

4 1. A utility corporation or municipality may, in accordance with such  
5 requirements as the commission may impose by regulation, render an esti-  
6 mated bill for any billing period if: (a) the procedure used by such  
7 utility or municipality for calculating estimated bills has been  
8 approved by the commission, and the bill clearly indicates that it is  
9 based on an estimated reading and (b) the utility owning the meter and  
10 providing the meter reading data on which the estimated bill will be  
11 based or the municipality has made reasonable effort to obtain an actual  
12 meter reading or (c) circumstances beyond the control of the utility or  
13 municipality made an actual reading of the meter extremely difficult or  
14 (d) circumstances indicate a reported reading is likely to be erroneous,  
15 or (e) an estimated reading is prescribed or authorized by the commis-  
16 sion for a billing period between periods when actual meter readings are  
17 scheduled or for seasonal or short term customers. Outside of the  
18 aforementioned criteria for estimated billing pursuant to this section,  
19 all other bills shall use actual meter readings, however such readings  
20 may be obtained.

21 1-a. The commission shall require each utility corporation and munici-  
22 pality within six months to submit to the commission a model procedure  
23 for the calculation of estimated bills that incorporates best practices

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

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1 and technology and accounts for any barriers to the use of actual meter  
2 readings. On or before November first, two thousand twenty-four, the  
3 commission shall promulgate rules and regulations to incorporate and  
4 adopt such model procedures for utility corporations and municipalities.  
5 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.