STATE OF NEW YORK

10534

IN ASSEMBLY

March 6, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. BURDICK -- read once and referred to the Committee on Energy

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to establishing a standardized rate application template

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

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds that rate increase applications filed by gas, electric, water, and other regulated utilities before the New York state public service commission vary widely in format, calculation methodology, and explanatory detail. This lack of uniformity impedes meaningful review by regulators, intervenors, and the public, and makes comparison across rate cases difficult.

The legislature therefore declares that it is in the public interest to require standardized, transparent, and clearly explained rate increase filings in order to promote accountability, comparability, and informed decision making.

§ 2. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 27-a to read as follows:

§ 27-a. Standardized utility rate case filings. 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Rate application" means any petition, filing, or submission seeking approval of a general rate increase or modification to rates, charges, or tariffs pursuant to this chapter.

(b) "Utility" means any electric, gas, steam, water, or telecommunications corporation subject to rate regulation pursuant to this chapter.

2. Standardized rate application template. (a) The commission shall, by rule or order, establish a standardized rate application template to be used by all utilities filing rate applications.

(b) The standardized template shall require uniform presentation of information, including, but not limited to:

(i) an executive summary of the proposed rate increase and total revenue request;

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

LBD15085-01-6

(ii) the projected bill impacts by customer class;
(iii) a detailed breakdown of operating expenses, capital expenditures, and rate base components;
(iv) historical and forecasted test year data presented in a consistent format;
(v) a side-by-side comparison of current rates and proposed rates; and
(vi) any additional schedules or exhibits the commission deems necessary for complete review.
(c) Except as otherwise authorized by the commission, all rate applications shall be submitted using the standardized template.
3. Uniform calculation methodologies. (a) The commission shall prescribe uniform calculation methodologies for key elements of rate applications, including but not limited to:
(i) revenue requirement calculations;
(ii) cost of capital and return on equity determinations;
(iii) depreciation, amortization, and plant-in-service calculations;
(iv) allocation of costs among customer classes; and
(v) forecasting assumptions used in test year analyses.
(b) Utilities shall apply the prescribed methodologies in all rate applications unless the commission grants a written waiver upon a showing of good cause.
4. Explanation of calculations and assumptions. (a) Each rate application shall include a clear and comprehensive explanation of all calculations used, including:
(i) identification of all formulas and mathematical methodologies employed;
(ii) the source of all data inputs;
(iii) all material assumptions underlying forecasts and projections; and
(iv) an explanation of any changes from methodologies or assumptions used in the utility's prior rate case.
(b) Supporting schedules and workpapers shall be provided in a format that allows commission staff, intervenors, and the public to replicate and verify the calculations.
5. Completeness review and enforcement. (a) The commission may determine that a rate application is incomplete if it fails to comply with the standardized template or methodology requirements established pursuant to this section.
(b) The commission may reject, suspend, or require amendment of any noncompliant filing until such deficiencies are cured.
6. Public availability. All rate applications, including explanatory materials and calculation workpapers, shall be made publicly available on the department's website, subject to existing provisions governing confidential or proprietary information.
7. Rulemaking authority. The commission is authorized to promulgate rules and issue orders necessary to implement and enforce the provisions of this section.

§ 3. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law and shall apply to all rate applications filed on or after such date.