# STATE OF NEW YORK

11138

# IN ASSEMBLY

April 24, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to requiring utilities to provide certain information about smart meters to customers; and authorizing and directing the public service commission to conduct a study on smart meter implementation in New York state

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "smart meter transparency and consumer protection act".

§ 2. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 67-b to read as follows:

**§ 67-b. Smart meter transparency and consumer protection. Utilities shall provide customers with clear, standardized information related to smart meters which shall include:**

**1. side-by-side comparisons of pre-smart meter bills and post-smart meter bills; and**

**2. plain language explanations of any billing changes, including time-of-use pricing and rate structure adjustments.**

§ 3. 1. The public service commission is authorized and directed to conduct a study, in coordination with an independent third party, on smart meter implementation in New York state.

2. The scope of such study shall include a comprehensive review of:

(a) the impact of smart meters on residential utility bills;

(b) differences in billing before and after installation of smart meters;

(c) the role of time-of-use pricing and billing structure changes;

(d) complaint trends from customers;

(e) opt-out fees, including:

(i) a full accounting of opt-out fees charged to customers;

(ii) a comparison of the actual cost to utilities of accommodating opt-out customers, including but not limited to installation and maintenance of smart meters, and the total revenue collected by utilities from opt-out fees; and

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

LBD15614-01-6

(iii) whether such opt-out fees are reasonable or excessive; and

(f) the effects of smart meters on:

(i) seniors;

(ii) low- and moderate-income households; and

(iii) customers without access to digital tools.

3. Utilities shall provide the following to the public service commission for oversight and inclusion in such study:

(a) side-by-side comparisons of pre-smart meter bills and post-smart meter bills; and

(b) plain language explanations of any billing changes, including time-of-use pricing and rate structure adjustments.

4. No later than one year after the effective date of this act, the public service commission shall submit to the legislature a report on the study conducted pursuant to this act and shall make such report publicly available. Such report shall include:

(a) policy recommendations; and

(b) a determination of whether additional consumer protections are needed.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.