

48:3-86.1 & 48:3-86.2
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

LAWS OF: 2025 **CHAPTER:** 99

NJSA: 48:3-86.1 & 48:3-86.2 Updates certain notification requirements in "Energy Bill Watch" program.

BILL NO: A5736 (Substituted for S4532 (1R))

SPONSOR(S) Bailey, David and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 6/12/2025

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Telecommunications & Utilities

SENATE: --

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 06/30/2025

SENATE: 06/30/2025

DATE OF APPROVAL: 7/8/2025

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (A5736 Aca (1R) enacted)

ADVANCE LAW	Yes
PAMPHLET LAW	Yes

A5736

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes
REPRINT(S):	Yes ATU 6/12/25 1R
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:	No
COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY:	Yes
SENATE:	No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No

S4532 (1R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes
REPRINT(S):	Yes SEG 6/12/25 1R
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:	No

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

LEGISLATOR STATEMENT: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 99, *approved July 8, 2025*
Assembly, No. 5736 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public ¹**[utilities]** utility¹
2 billing practices and amending P.L.2025, ¹**[c47]** c.47¹.
3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:
6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. As used in P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1 et. seq.):
10 “Electric public utility” means a public utility, as that term is
11 defined in R.S.48:2-13, that ¹transmits and¹ distributes electricity to
12 end users within this State.

13 “Gas public utility” means a public utility, as that term is defined
14 in R.S.48:2-13, that distributes gas to end users within this State.

15 “Smart meter” means an electronic metering device that
16 measures and records utility usage data in regular intervals on a
17 daily basis and wirelessly transmits this data to a public utility for
18 billing and other purposes.

19 “Smart meter customer” means a residential customer of an
20 electric public utility or gas public utility whose electricity or gas
21 usage is measured using a smart meter.
22 (cf: P.L.2025, c.47, s.1)
23

24 2. Section 2 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.2) is amended to read
25 as follows:

26 2. a. No later than 90 days following the effective date of
27 P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1 et. seq.), each electric public utility and
28 each gas public utility that uses smart meters to record customers’
29 electricity or gas usage information shall establish a program, which
30 program shall be called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart
31 meter customer of the customer’s electricity or gas usage as
32 provided in subsection b. of this section.

33 b. Under an “Energy Bill Watch” program established pursuant
34 to subsection a. of this section, an electric public utility or a gas
35 public utility shall, at a minimum:

36 (1) notify a customer ¹**[on]** during the week of¹ the 10th day of
37 each billing cycle via, at the customer’s discretion, text message or
38 **[**, if the electric public utility or gas public utility does not possess
39 a smart meter customer’s mobile telephone number, via**]** electronic
40 mail, of the cost in dollars of the customer’s electricity or gas usage
41 for the billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ATU committee amendments adopted June 12, 2025.

1 the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms
2 of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to
3 the time at most two days before which the notification is sent;

4 (2) notify a customer ¹**["on"]** during the week of¹ the 20th day of
5 each billing cycle via, at the customer's discretion, text message or
6 **["**, if the electric public utility or gas public utility does not possess
7 a smart meter customer's mobile telephone number, **via"]** electronic
8 mail, of the cost in dollars of the customer's electricity or gas usage
9 for the billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which
10 the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms
11 of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to
12 the time at most two days before which the notification is sent;

13 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
14 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas
15 public utility will notify the customer via the customer's selection
16 of text message or electronic mail that the customer has reached the
17 threshold dollar value based on the customer's electricity or gas
18 usage for that billing cycle; and

19 (4) provide a customer with the option to receive a separate
20 ¹**["notice"]** notification¹ each billing cycle that compares the
21 customer's average daily electricity or gas usage from that billing
22 cycle with the customer's average daily electricity or gas usage
23 from the previous billing cycle or from the same billing cycle in the
24 previous calendar year.

25 c. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall:

26 (1) advertise the electric public utility's or gas public utility's
27 "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods, including,
28 but not limited to:

29 (a) electronic mail;

30 (b) posts on social media platforms;

31 (c) the electric public utility's or gas public utility's Internet
32 website; and

33 (d) bills to customers who possess smart meters;

34 (2) notify all smart meter customers via ¹**["text message"]** bill
35 insert or electronic mail¹ when the electric public utility's or gas
36 public utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program is available for
37 customers and include in the notification ¹;

38 (a) information about how the customer may choose to receive
39 program notifications pursuant to subsection b. of this section via
40 text message; and

41 (b)¹ the choice to opt out of the program ¹**["**. If the electric public
42 utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter
43 customer's mobile telephone number, the electric public utility or
44 gas public utility shall send the notification via electronic mail **"]**¹;

45 (3) automatically enroll all smart meter customers in the
46 program; ¹**["and"]**¹

1 (4) include in a customer's first ¹**【notice】** notification provided
2 pursuant to subsection b. of this section¹ guidance on how the
3 customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy Bill
4 Watch" program ¹; and

5 (5) if a smart meter customer does not express the customer's
6 preference to receive notifications provided pursuant to subsection
7 b. of this section via text message or via electronic mail, send
8 notifications pursuant to subsection b. of this section via electronic
9 mail¹.

10 (cf: P.L.2025, c.47, s.2)

11

12 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

13

14

15

16

17 _____
18 Updates certain notification requirements in "Energy Bill Watch"
program.

CHAPTER 99

AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utility billing practices and amending P.L.2025, c.47.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. Section 1 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1) is amended to read as follows:

C.48:3-86.1 Definitions.

1. As used in P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1 et. seq.):

“Electric public utility” means a public utility, as that term is defined in R.S.48:2-13, that transmits and distributes electricity to end users within this State.

“Gas public utility” means a public utility, as that term is defined in R.S.48:2-13, that distributes gas to end users within this State.

“Smart meter” means an electronic metering device that measures and records utility usage data in regular intervals on a daily basis and wirelessly transmits this data to a public utility for billing and other purposes.

“Smart meter customer” means a residential customer of an electric public utility or gas public utility whose electricity or gas usage is measured using a smart meter.

2. Section 2 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.2) is amended to read as follows:

C.48:3-86.2 "Energy Bill Watch", electricity, gas usage, cost notification.

2. a. No later than 90 days following the effective date of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1 et. seq.), each electric public utility and each gas public utility that uses smart meters to record customers' electricity or gas usage information shall establish a program, which program shall be called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart meter customer of the customer's electricity or gas usage as provided in subsection b. of this section.

b. Under an “Energy Bill Watch” program established pursuant to subsection a. of this section, an electric public utility or a gas public utility shall, at a minimum:

(1) notify a customer during the week of the 10th day of each billing cycle via, at the customer's discretion, text message or electronic mail, of the cost in dollars of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which the notification is sent;

(2) notify a customer during the week of the 20th day of each billing cycle via, at the customer's discretion, text message or electronic mail, of the cost in dollars of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which the notification is sent;

(3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas public utility will notify the customer via the customer's selection of text message or electronic mail that the customer has reached the threshold dollar value based on the customer's electricity or gas usage for that billing cycle; and

(4) provide a customer with the option to receive a separate notification each billing cycle that compares the customer's average daily electricity or gas usage from that billing cycle with the customer's average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle or from the same billing cycle in the previous calendar year.

c. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall:

(1) advertise the electric public utility's or gas public utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods, including, but not limited to:

- (a) electronic mail;
- (b) posts on social media platforms;
- (c) the electric public utility's or gas public utility's Internet website; and
- (d) bills to customers who possess smart meters;

(2) notify all smart meter customers via bill insert or electronic mail when the electric public utility's or gas public utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program is available for customers and include in the notification:

(a) information about how the customer may choose to receive program notifications pursuant to subsection b. of this section via text message; and

(b) the choice to opt out of the program;

(3) automatically enroll all smart meter customers in the program;

(4) include in a customer's first notification provided pursuant to subsection b. of this section guidance on how the customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy Bill Watch" program; and

(5) if a smart meter customer does not express the customer's preference to receive notifications provided pursuant to subsection b. of this section via text message or via electronic mail, send notifications pursuant to subsection b. of this section via electronic mail.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved July 8, 2025.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5736

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 12, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DAVID BAILEY, JR.
District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)
Assemblywoman HEATHER SIMMONS
District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)
Assemblyman CODY D. MILLER
District 4 (Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Venezia

SYNOPSIS

Updates certain notification requirements in "Energy Bill Watch" program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/12/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utilities billing practices
2 and amending P.L.2025, c47.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. As used in P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1 et. seq.):

10 “Electric public utility” means a public utility, as that term is
11 defined in R.S.48:2-13, that distributes electricity to end users
12 within this State.

13 “Gas public utility” means a public utility, as that term is defined
14 in R.S.48:2-13, that distributes gas to end users within this State.

15 “Smart meter” means an electronic metering device that
16 measures and records utility usage data in regular intervals on a
17 daily basis and wirelessly transmits this data to a public utility for
18 billing and other purposes.

19 “Smart meter customer” means a residential customer of an
20 electric public utility or gas public utility whose electricity or gas
21 usage is measured using a smart meter.

22 (cf: P.L.2025, c.47, s.1)

23

24 2. Section 2 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.2) is amended to read
25 as follows:

26 2. a. No later than 90 days following the effective date of
27 P.L.2025, c.47 (C. 48:3-86.1 et. seq.), each electric public utility
28 and each gas public utility that uses smart meters to record
29 customers’ electricity or gas usage information shall establish a
30 program, which program shall be called “Energy Bill Watch,” to
31 notify a smart meter customer of the customer’s electricity or gas
32 usage as provided in subsection b. of this section.

33 b. Under an “Energy Bill Watch” program established pursuant
34 to subsection a. of this section, an electric public utility or a gas
35 public utility shall, at a minimum:

36 (1) notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle via,
37 at the customer’s discretion, text message or **【**, if the electric public
38 utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter
39 customer’s mobile telephone number, **via】** electronic mail, of the
40 cost in dollars of the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the
41 billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which the
42 notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of
43 the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the
44 time at most two days before which the notification is sent;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】 in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of each billing cycle via,
2 at the customer's discretion, text message or **】, if the electric public**
3 **utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter**
4 **customer's mobile telephone number, via】** electronic mail, of the
5 cost in dollars of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the
6 billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which the
7 notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of
8 the customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the
9 time at most two days before which the notification is sent;

10 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
11 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas
12 public utility will notify the customer via the customer's selection
13 of text message or electronic mail that the customer has reached the
14 threshold dollar value based on the customer's electricity or gas
15 usage for that billing cycle; and

16 (4) provide a customer with the option to receive a separate
17 notice each billing cycle that compares the customer's average daily
18 electricity or gas usage from that billing cycle with the customer's
19 average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous billing
20 cycle or from the same billing cycle in the previous calendar year.

21 c. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall:

22 (1) advertise the electric public utility's or gas public utility's
23 "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods, including,
24 but not limited to:

25 (a) electronic mail;

26 (b) posts on social media platforms;

27 (c) the electric public utility's or gas public utility's Internet
28 website; and

29 (d) bills to customers who possess smart meters;

30 (2) notify all smart meter customers via text message when the
31 electric public utility's or gas public utility's "Energy Bill Watch"
32 program is available for customers and include in the notification
33 the choice to opt out of the program. If the electric public utility or
34 gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer's mobile
35 telephone number, the electric public utility or gas public utility
36 shall send the notification via electronic mail;

37 (3) automatically enroll all smart meter customers in the
38 program; and

39 (4) include in a customer's first notice guidance on how the
40 customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy Bill
41 Watch" program.

42 (cf: P.L.2025, c.47, s.2)

43
44 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

1
2
3 This bill amends certain notification requirements under the
4 "Energy Bill Watch" program. Current law requires electric and
5 gas public utilities to implement programs that notify each smart
6 meter customer on the 10th and 20th day of a billing cycle of the
7 cost in dollars of the smart meter customer's electricity or gas usage
8 and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer's
9 electricity or gas usage in that billing cycle through text messages
10 or if the electric or gas public utility does not possess the smart
11 meter customer's phone number, through electronic mail messages.
12 This bill clarifies that the "Energy Bill Watch" program pertains
13 to residential customers whose electric or gas usage is measured
14 using a smart meter. The bill further gives smart meter customers
15 the choice between receiving text messages or electronic mail
16 messages on the 10th and 20th day of a billing cycle. Finally, the
17 bill requires the notification provided on the 10th and 20th day of
18 the billing cycle to include the cost in dollars of a smart meter
19 customer's usage and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the
20 customer's electricity or gas usage up to the time at most two days
21 before the notification is sent.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5736

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 12, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DAVID BAILEY, JR.

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblywoman HEATHER SIMMONS

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblyman CODY D. MILLER

District 4 (Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester)

Senator JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

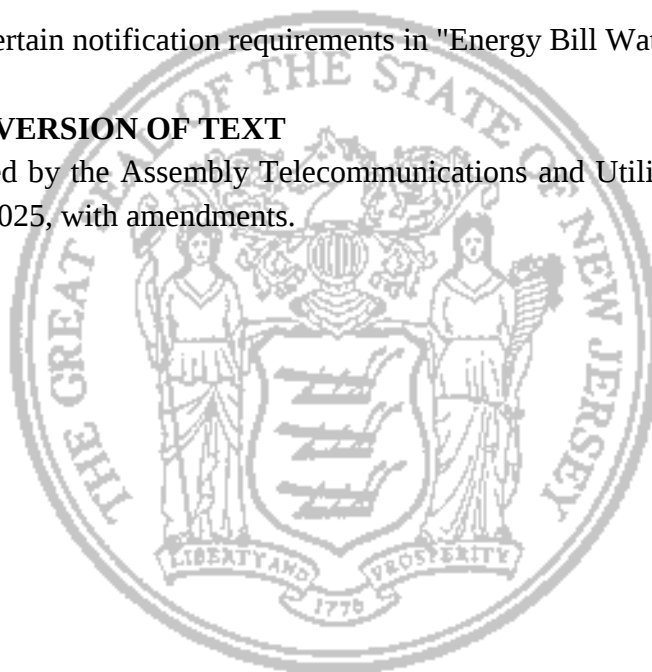
Assemblyman Venezia, Assemblywoman McCoy and Senator Timberlake

SYNOPSIS

Updates certain notification requirements in "Energy Bill Watch" program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee on June 12, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public ¹**[utilities]** utility¹
2 billing practices and amending P.L.2025, ¹**[c47]** c.47¹.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. As used in P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1 et. seq.):

10 “Electric public utility” means a public utility, as that term is
11 defined in R.S.48:2-13, that ¹transmits and¹ distributes electricity to
12 end users within this State.

13 “Gas public utility” means a public utility, as that term is defined
14 in R.S.48:2-13, that distributes gas to end users within this State.

15 “Smart meter” means an electronic metering device that
16 measures and records utility usage data in regular intervals on a
17 daily basis and wirelessly transmits this data to a public utility for
18 billing and other purposes.

19 “Smart meter customer” means a residential customer of an
20 electric public utility or gas public utility whose electricity or gas
21 usage is measured using a smart meter.

22 (cf: P.L.2025, c.47, s.1)

23

24 2. Section 2 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.2) is amended to read
25 as follows:

26 2. a. No later than 90 days following the effective date of
27 P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1 et. seq.), each electric public utility and
28 each gas public utility that uses smart meters to record customers’
29 electricity or gas usage information shall establish a program, which
30 program shall be called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart
31 meter customer of the customer’s electricity or gas usage as
32 provided in subsection b. of this section.

33 b. Under an “Energy Bill Watch” program established pursuant
34 to subsection a. of this section, an electric public utility or a gas
35 public utility shall, at a minimum:

36 (1) notify a customer ¹**[on]** during the week of¹ the 10th day of
37 each billing cycle via, at the customer’s discretion, text message or
38 **[**, if the electric public utility or gas public utility does not possess
39 a smart meter customer’s mobile telephone number, **via]** electronic
40 mail, of the cost in dollars of the customer’s electricity or gas usage
41 for the billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which
42 the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms
43 of the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to
44 the time at most two days before which the notification is sent;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ATU committee amendments adopted June 12, 2025.

1 (2) notify a customer ¹**["on] during the week of**¹ the 20th day of
2 each billing cycle via, at the customer's discretion, text message or
3 **],** if the electric public utility or gas public utility does not possess
4 a smart meter customer's mobile telephone number, via **]** electronic
5 mail, of the cost in dollars of the customer's electricity or gas usage
6 for the billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which
7 the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms
8 of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to
9 the time at most two days before which the notification is sent;

10 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
11 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas
12 public utility will notify the customer via the customer's selection
13 of text message or electronic mail that the customer has reached the
14 threshold dollar value based on the customer's electricity or gas
15 usage for that billing cycle; and

16 (4) provide a customer with the option to receive a separate
17 ¹**["notice] notification**¹ each billing cycle that compares the
18 customer's average daily electricity or gas usage from that billing
19 cycle with the customer's average daily electricity or gas usage
20 from the previous billing cycle or from the same billing cycle in the
21 previous calendar year.

22 c. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall:

23 (1) advertise the electric public utility's or gas public utility's
24 "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods, including,
25 but not limited to:

26 (a) electronic mail;

27 (b) posts on social media platforms;

28 (c) the electric public utility's or gas public utility's Internet
29 website; and

30 (d) bills to customers who possess smart meters;

31 (2) notify all smart meter customers via ¹**["text message] bill**
32 insert or electronic mail¹ when the electric public utility's or gas
33 public utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program is available for
34 customers and include in the notification ¹:

35 (a) information about how the customer may choose to receive
36 program notifications pursuant to subsection b. of this section via
37 text message; and

38 (b)¹ the choice to opt out of the program ¹**["].** If the electric public
39 utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter
40 customer's mobile telephone number, the electric public utility or
41 gas public utility shall send the notification via electronic mail **"]**¹;

42 (3) automatically enroll all smart meter customers in the
43 program; ¹**["and"]**¹

44 (4) include in a customer's first ¹**["notice] notification provided**
45 pursuant to subsection b. of this section¹ guidance on how the
46 customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy Bill
47 Watch" program ¹; and

1 (5) if a smart meter customer does not express the customer's
2 preference to receive notifications provided pursuant to subsection
3 b. of this section via text message or via electronic mail, send
4 notifications pursuant to subsection b. of this section via electronic
5 mail¹.

6 (cf: P.L.2025, c.47, s.2)

7

8 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO **ASSEMBLY, No. 5736**

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2025

The Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 5736.

As amended and reported, this bill amends certain notification requirements under the “Energy Bill Watch” program (program). Current law requires electric and gas public utilities to implement programs that notify smart meter customers on the 10th and 20th day of a billing cycle of the cost in dollars of a smart meter customer’s electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of a customer’s electricity or gas usage in that billing cycle through text messages or, if the electric or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer’s phone number, through electronic mail.

This bill clarifies that the program pertains to residential customers whose electricity or gas usage is measured using a smart meter. In addition, the bill gives smart meter customers the choice between receiving program notifications via text message or electronic mail. Finally, the bill requires the notification provided during the week of the 10th and 20th day of the billing cycle to include the cost in dollars of a smart meter customer’s usage and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer’s electricity or gas usage up to the time at most two days before the notification is sent.

Additionally, the bill requires that the first notification to customers about program availability be sent via bill insert or electronic mail, rather than via text message, as under current law. An electric public utility is to inform a customer about certain options for receiving notifications under the program or opting out, as outlined in the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) require an electric public utility or gas public utility to notify a customer of the cost in dollars and the measure of electricity or gas usage during the week of the 10th and 20th days of each billing cycle, instead of on the 10th and 20th days;

(2) require that an electric public utility or gas public utility notify all smart meter customers when the electric public utility's or gas public utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program is available via bill insert or electronic mail, instead of via text message;

(3) require that an electric public utility or gas public utility include information about how the customer may choose to receive program notifications via text message in the notification sent to customers when the program is available;

(4) clarify that an electric public utility or gas public utility is to also include in a customer's first notification under the "Energy Bill Watch" program information that, if the customer does not express a preference to receive notifications via text message or via electronic mail, the utility will send the notification via electronic mail;

(5) clarify that "electric public utility" includes a public utility that transmits and distributes electricity to end users within the State, instead of a public utility that distributes electricity to end users within the State; and

(6) make technical changes.

SENATE, No. 4532

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 29, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Timberlake

SYNOPSIS

Updates certain notification requirements in "Energy Bill Watch" program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/12/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utilities billing practices
2 and amending P.L.2025, c47.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. As used in P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1 et. seq.):

10 “Electric public utility” means a public utility, as that term is
11 defined in R.S.48:2-13, that distributes electricity to end users
12 within this State.

13 “Gas public utility” means a public utility, as that term is defined
14 in R.S.48:2-13, that distributes gas to end users within this State.

15 “Smart meter” means an electronic metering device that
16 measures and records utility usage data in regular intervals on a
17 daily basis and wirelessly transmits this data to a public utility for
18 billing and other purposes.

19 “Smart meter customer” means a residential customer of an
20 electric public utility or gas public utility whose electricity or gas
21 usage is measured using a smart meter.

22 (cf: P.L.2025, c.47, s.1)

23

24 2. Section 2 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.2) is amended to read
25 as follows:

26 2. a. No later than 90 days following the effective date of
27 P.L.2025, c.47 (C. 48:3-86.1 et. seq.), each electric public utility
28 and each gas public utility that uses smart meters to record
29 customers’ electricity or gas usage information shall establish a
30 program, which program shall be called “Energy Bill Watch,” to
31 notify a smart meter customer of the customer’s electricity or gas
32 usage as provided in subsection b. of this section.

33 b. Under an “Energy Bill Watch” program established pursuant
34 to subsection a. of this section, an electric public utility or a gas
35 public utility shall, at a minimum:

36 (1) notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle via,
37 at the customer’s discretion, text message or **】, if the electric public**
38 **utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter**
39 **customer’s mobile telephone number, via】** electronic mail, of the
40 cost in dollars of the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the
41 billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which the
42 notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of
43 the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the
44 time at most two days before which the notification is sent;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **】thus in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of each billing cycle via,
2 at the customer's discretion, text message or **】, if the electric public**
3 **utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter**
4 **customer's mobile telephone number, via】** electronic mail, of the
5 cost in dollars of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the
6 billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which the
7 notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of
8 the customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the
9 time at most two days before which the notification is sent;

10 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
11 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas
12 public utility will notify the customer via the customer's selection
13 of text message or electronic mail that the customer has reached the
14 threshold dollar value based on the customer's electricity or gas
15 usage for that billing cycle; and

16 (4) provide a customer with the option to receive a separate
17 notice each billing cycle that compares the customer's average daily
18 electricity or gas usage from that billing cycle with the customer's
19 average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous billing
20 cycle or from the same billing cycle in the previous calendar year.

21 c. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall:

22 (1) advertise the electric public utility's or gas public utility's
23 "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods, including,
24 but not limited to:

25 (a) electronic mail;

26 (b) posts on social media platforms;

27 (c) the electric public utility's or gas public utility's Internet
28 website; and

29 (d) bills to customers who possess smart meters;

30 (2) notify all smart meter customers via text message when the
31 electric public utility's or gas public utility's "Energy Bill Watch"
32 program is available for customers and include in the notification
33 the choice to opt out of the program. If the electric public utility or
34 gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer's mobile
35 telephone number, the electric public utility or gas public utility
36 shall send the notification via electronic mail;

37 (3) automatically enroll all smart meter customers in the
38 program; and

39 (4) include in a customer's first notice guidance on how the
40 customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy Bill
41 Watch" program.

42 (cf: P.L.2025, c.47, s.2)

43
44 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

1 STATEMENT

2

3 This bill amends certain notification requirements under the
4 "Energy Bill Watch" program. Current law requires electric and
5 gas public utilities to implement programs that notify each smart
6 meter customer on the 10th and 20th day of a billing cycle of the
7 cost in dollars of the smart meter customer's electricity or gas usage
8 and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer's
9 electricity or gas usage in that billing cycle through text messages
10 or if the electric or gas public utility does not possess the smart
11 meter customer's phone number, through electronic mail messages.

12 This bill clarifies that the "Energy Bill Watch" program pertains
13 to residential customers whose electric or gas usage is measured
14 using a smart meter. The bill further gives smart meter customers
15 the choice between receiving text messages or electronic mail
16 messages on the 10th and 20th day of a billing cycle. Finally, the
17 bill requires the notification provided on the 10th and 20th day of
18 the billing cycle to include the cost in dollars of a smart meter
19 customer's usage and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the
20 customer's electricity or gas usage up to the time at most two days
21 before the notification is sent.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 4532

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 29, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Timberlake

SYNOPSIS

Updates certain notification requirements in "Energy Bill Watch" program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Economic Growth Committee on June 12, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/12/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public ¹**[utilities]** utility¹
2 billing practices and amending P.L.2025, ¹**[c47]** c.47¹.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1) is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 1. As used in P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1 et. seq.):

10 “Electric public utility” means a public utility, as that term is
11 defined in R.S.48:2-13, that ¹transmits and¹ distributes electricity to
12 end users within this State.

13 “Gas public utility” means a public utility, as that term is defined
14 in R.S.48:2-13, that distributes gas to end users within this State.

15 “Smart meter” means an electronic metering device that measures
16 and records utility usage data in regular intervals on a daily basis and
17 wirelessly transmits this data to a public utility for billing and other
18 purposes.

19 “Smart meter customer” means a residential customer of an
20 electric public utility or gas public utility whose electricity or gas
21 usage is measured using a smart meter.

22
23 2. Section 2 of P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.2) is amended to read as
24 follows:

25 2. a. No later than 90 days following the effective date of
26 P.L.2025, c.47 (C.48:3-86.1 et. seq.), each electric public utility and
27 each gas public utility that uses smart meters to record customers’
28 electricity or gas usage information shall establish a program, which
29 program shall be called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart meter
30 customer of the customer’s electricity or gas usage as provided in
31 subsection b. of this section.

32 b. Under an “Energy Bill Watch” program established pursuant to
33 subsection a. of this section, an electric public utility or a gas public
34 utility shall, at a minimum:

35 (1) notify a customer ¹**[on]** during the week of¹ the 10th day of
36 each billing cycle via, at the customer’s discretion, text message or **[**,
37 if the electric public utility or gas public utility does not possess a
38 smart meter customer’s mobile telephone number, **via]** electronic
39 mail, of the cost in dollars of the customer’s electricity or gas usage for
40 the billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which the
41 notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the
42 customer’s electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the time
43 at most two days before which the notification is sent;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SEG committee amendments adopted June 12, 2025.

1 (2) notify a customer ¹**[on]** during the week of¹ the 20th day of
2 each billing cycle via, at the customer's discretion, text message or **[**,
3 if the electric public utility or gas public utility does not possess a
4 smart meter customer's mobile telephone number, **via]** electronic
5 mail, of the cost in dollars of the customer's electricity or gas usage for
6 the billing cycle up to the time at most two days before which the
7 notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the
8 customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the time
9 at most two days before which the notification is sent;

10 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value for
11 the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas public
12 utility will notify the customer via the customer's selection of text
13 message or electronic mail that the customer has reached the threshold
14 dollar value based on the customer's electricity or gas usage for that
15 billing cycle; and

16 (4) provide a customer with the option to receive a separate
17 ¹**[notice]** notification¹ each billing cycle that compares the customer's
18 average daily electricity or gas usage from that billing cycle with the
19 customer's average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous
20 billing cycle or from the same billing cycle in the previous calendar
21 year.

22 c. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall:

23 (1) advertise the electric public utility's or gas public utility's
24 "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods, including,
25 but not limited to:

26 (a) electronic mail;

27 (b) posts on social media platforms;

28 (c) the electric public utility's or gas public utility's Internet
29 website; and

30 (d) bills to customers who possess smart meters;

31 (2) notify all smart meter customers via ¹**[text message]** bill insert
32 or electronic mail¹ when the electric public utility's or gas public
33 utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program is available for customers and
34 include in the notification ¹:

35 (a) information about how the customer may choose to receive
36 program notifications pursuant to subsection b. of this section via text
37 message; and

38 (b)¹ the choice to opt out of the program ¹**[**. If the electric public
39 utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer's
40 mobile telephone number, the electric public utility or gas public
41 utility shall send the notification via electronic mail¹];

42 (3) automatically enroll all smart meter customers in the program;
43 ¹**[and]**¹

44 (4) include in a customer's first ¹**[notice]** notification provided
45 pursuant to subsection b. of this section¹ guidance on how the
46 customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy Bill
47 Watch" program ¹; and

1 (5) if a smart meter customer does not express the customer's
2 preference to receive notifications provided pursuant to subsection b.
3 of this section via text message or via electronic mail, send
4 notifications pursuant to subsection b. of this section via electronic
5 mail¹.

6 (cf: P.L.2025, c.47, s.2)

7

8 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4532

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2025

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 4532.

As amended and reported, this bill amends certain notification requirements under the “Energy Bill Watch” program (program). Current law requires electric and gas public utilities to implement programs that notify smart meter customers on the 10th and 20th day of a billing cycle of the cost in dollars of a smart meter customer’s electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of a customer’s electricity or gas usage in that billing cycle through text messages or, if the electric or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer’s phone number, through electronic mail.

This bill clarifies that the program pertains to residential customers whose electricity or gas usage is measured using a smart meter. In addition, the bill gives smart meter customers the choice between receiving program notifications via text message or electronic mail. Finally, the bill requires the notification provided during the week of the 10th and 20th day of the billing cycle to include the cost in dollars of a smart meter customer’s usage and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer’s electricity or gas usage up to the time at most two days before the notification is sent.

Additionally, the bill requires that the first notification to customers about program availability be sent via bill insert or electronic mail, rather than via text message, as under current law. An electric public utility is to inform a customer about certain options for receiving notifications under the program or opting out, as outlined in the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) require an electric public utility or gas public utility to notify a customer of the cost in dollars and the measure of electricity or gas usage during the week of the 10th and 20th days of each billing cycle, instead of on the 10th and 20th days;

(2) require that an electric public utility or gas public utility notify all smart meter customers when the electric public utility’s or gas

public utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program is available via bill insert or electronic mail, instead of via text message;

(3) require that an electric public utility or gas public utility include information about how the customer may choose to receive program notifications via text message in the notification sent to customers when the program is available;

(4) clarify that an electric public utility or gas public utility is to also include in a customer's first notification under the "Energy Bill Watch" program information that, if the customer does not express a preference to receive notifications via text message or via electronic mail, the utility will send the notification via electronic mail;

(5) clarify that "electric public utility" includes a public utility that transmits and distributes electricity to end users within the State, instead of a public utility that distributes electricity to end users within the State; and

(6) make technical changes.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

Posted on - 07/8/2025

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

S-1400/A-5448 (Singleton, Zwicker/Park, Freiman) - “Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act”; provides alternative process for handling partition actions filed in court concerning real property with multiple owners, at least one of whom had acquired title from relative

S-1439/A-3856 (Singleton, A.M. Bucco/Sampson, McClellan, Miller) - Requires health benefits coverage for additional orthotic and prosthetic appliances under certain circumstances; requires coverage for orthotic and prosthetic appliances obtained through podiatrists

S-2886/A-4015 (Greenstein, Turner/McCoy) - Requires pharmacies to provide certain information regarding insulin manufacturer assistance programs

S-3787/A-5613 (Scutari, Ruiz/Pintor Marin, Morales) - Requires municipal tax collectors who obtain payments in lieu of taxes under “Long Term Tax Exemption Law” to transmit county portion directly to county

S-3850/A-5356 (Smith, Scutari/Karabinchak, Reynolds-Jackson) - Permits county boards of elections to extend distance within which electioneering is prohibited

S-3928/A-5322 (Ruiz, Scutari/Greenwald, Sampson) - Limits general application of certain consumer contracts

S-3961/A-5263 (Ruiz, Scutari/Haider, Morales, Karabinchak) - Requires public and certain nonpublic schools to offer no-fee option to parents for making school lunch and other payments; requires payment processing platforms used by certain schools to provide users with information on user fees

S-4162/A-5469 (Turner, Ruiz/Reynolds-Jackson, Carter, Morales) - Limits use or disclosure of certain education records

A-4113/S-2155 (Carter, Atkins/Cryan, McKeon) - Prohibits sports wagering partnerships at public institutions of higher education

A-5141/S-3813 (Peterpaul, Calabrese, Donlon/Gopal, O’Scanlon) - Establishes historic distillery license; allows consumption of licensee’s products on and off licensed premises under certain circumstances

A-5466/S-4318 (Bailey, Freiman, Reynolds-Jackson/Burzichelli, Greenstein) - Requires BPU to study effects of data centers on electricity costs

A-5736/S-4532 (Bailey, Simmons, Miller/Burzichelli, McKnight) - Updates certain notification requirements in "Energy Bill Watch" program