

A4817 (2R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes	
REPRINT(S):	Yes	ATU 12/9/24 1R Assembly 1/30/25 2R
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:	Yes
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No
VETO MESSAGE:	No
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes
LEGISLATOR STATEMENT:	Yes

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:	Yes

Matthew Fazelpoor, 'New Jersey law aims to prevent energy bill shock', *NJBIZ* (online), 22 Apr 2025<<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1A03C793C9B4ECA0>>

Matthew Fazelpoor, 'Trenton lawmakers zero in on surging energy bills', *NJBIZ* (online), 21 Apr 2025<<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1A02CB49F5280840>>

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 47, *approved April 22, 2025*
Senate, No. 3620 (*Third Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utilities and
2 supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

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

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

14 “Smart meter” means ³**[a]** an electronic³ metering device that
15 ³**[**employs smart meter technology to measure, record, and transmit
16 utility usage data to both **]** measures and records utility usage data
17 in regular intervals on a daily basis and wirelessly transmits this
18 data to³ a public utility ³**[and a customer]**³ for billing and other
19 purposes. ³**[**“Smart meter” shall include a basic hourly interval
20 meter, a meter with one-way communication, and a real-time meter
21 with built-in, two-way communication capable of recording and
22 transmitting instantaneous utility usage data. **]**³

23 “Smart meter customer” means a customer of an electric ²public
24 utility² or gas public utility whose electricity or gas usage is
25 measured using a smart meter.

26

27 2. a. No later than ³**[**²**[90]** 120²**]** 90³ days following the
28 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
29 Legislature as this bill), each electric public utility and each gas
30 public utility that uses smart meters to record customers’ electricity
31 or gas usage information shall establish a program, which program
32 shall be called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart meter
33 customer ³**[**when **]** of³ the customer’s electricity or gas usage
34 ³**[**exceeds certain thresholds **]**³ as provided in subsection b. of this
35 section.

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 October 10, 2024.

²Assembly ATU committee amendments adopted December 9, 2024.

³Assembly floor amendments adopted January 30, 2025.

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

4 (1) notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle ³[if
5 the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the
6 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous
7 billing cycle ²or from the same billing cycle in the previous
8 calendar year²] via text message or, if the electric public utility or
9 gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer’s mobile
10 telephone number, via electronic mail, of the cost in dollars of the
11 customer’s electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the
12 time at which the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt
13 hours or therms of the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the
14 billing cycle up to the time at which the notification is sent³;

15 (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of ³[, or at such points as
16 the customer designates in,]³ each billing cycle ³[, if the
17 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the
18 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous
19 billing cycle ²or from the same billing cycle in the previous
20 calendar year²] via text message or, if the electric public utility or
21 gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer’s mobile
22 telephone number, via electronic mail, of the cost in dollars of the
23 customer’s electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the
24 time at which the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt
25 hours or therms of the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the
26 billing cycle up to the time at which the notification is sent³;

27 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
28 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas
29 public utility will notify the customer ³via the customer’s selection
30 of text message or electronic mail³ that the customer has reached
31 the threshold dollar value based on the customer’s ²[electric]
32 electricity² or gas usage for that billing cycle; and

33 (4) provide a customer with ³[the cost in dollars of the
34 customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount
35 in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer’s average monthly
36 electricity or gas usage in each notice provided pursuant to this
37 subsection] the option to receive a separate notice each billing
38 cycle that compares the customer’s average daily electricity or gas
39 usage from that billing cycle with the customer’s average daily
40 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle or from the
41 same billing cycle in the previous calendar year³.

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

43 (1) advertise the electric public ²[utility] utility’s² or gas public
44 utility’s “Energy Bill Watch” program through multiple methods,
45 including, but not limited to:

46 (a) electronic mail;

- 1 (b) posts on social media platforms;
- 2 (c) the electric public ²**[utility]** utility's² or gas public utility's
- 3 Internet website; and
- 4 (d) bills to customers who possess smart meters;
- 5 (2) notify all smart meter customers via text message when the
- 6 electric public ²**[utility]** utility's² or gas public utility's "Energy
- 7 Bill Watch" program is available for customers and include in the
- 8 notification the choice to opt out of the program. If the electric
- 9 public utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter
- 10 customer's mobile telephone number, the electric public utility or
- 11 gas public utility shall send the notification via electronic mail;
- 12 (3) automatically enroll all smart meter customers in the
- 13 program; and
- 14 (4) include in a customer's first notice ²**[,]**² guidance on how
- 15 the customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy
- 16 Bill Watch" program.

17

18 3. ¹a.¹ An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall

19 include, at a minimum, the following information in each bill issued to

20 a customer:

- 21 (1) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
- 22 public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle;
- 23 (2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
- 24 public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and
- 25 (3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous
- 26 billing cycle and the current billing cycle.

27 ¹b. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall include,

28 within each dollar amount required in each bill pursuant to subsection

29 a. of this section, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including, but not limited

30 to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas, third party supplier

31 services, and the societal benefits charge.¹

32

33 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

34

35

36

37

38 _____

39 Requires electric and gas public utilities to establish "Energy Bill

40 Watch" program and include certain information in bills and notices

to customers.

CHAPTER 47

AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utilities and supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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 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 customer of an electric public utility or gas public utility whose electricity or gas usage is measured using a smart meter.

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 use 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 on the 10th day of each billing cycle via text message or, if the electric public utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer's mobile telephone number, via electronic mail, of the cost in dollars of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the time at 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 which the notification is sent;

(2) notify a customer on the 20th day of each billing cycle via text message or, if the electric public utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer's mobile telephone number, via electronic mail, of the cost in dollars of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the time at 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 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 notice 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 text message when the electric public utility's or gas public utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program is available for customers and include in the notification the choice to opt out of the program. If the electric public utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer's mobile telephone number, the electric public utility or gas public utility shall send the notification via electronic mail;

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

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

C.48:3-86.3 Information included in electric, gas public utility bills.

3. a. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall include, at a minimum, the following information in each bill issued to a customer:

(1) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle;

(2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and

(3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous billing cycle and the current billing cycle.

b. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall include, within each dollar amount required in each bill pursuant to subsection a. of this section, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including, but not limited to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas, third-party supplier services, and the societal benefits charge.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved April 22, 2025.

SENATE, No. 3620

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Requires electric and gas public utilities to establish “Energy Bill Watch” program and include certain information in bills and notices to customers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S3620 BURZICHELLI

2

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utilities and
2 supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

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

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

14 “Smart meter” means a metering device that employs smart
15 meter technology to measure, record, and transmit utility usage data
16 to both a public utility and a customer for billing and other
17 purposes. “Smart meter” shall include a basic hourly interval
18 meter, a meter with one-way communication, and a real-time meter
19 with built-in, two-way communication capable of recording and
20 transmitting instantaneous utility usage data.

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

24

25 2. a. No later than 90 days following the effective date of
26 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
27 each electric public utility and each gas public utility that uses
28 smart meters to record customers’ electricity or gas usage
29 information shall establish a program, which program shall be
30 called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart meter customer when
31 the customer’s electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds 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 on the 10th day of each billing cycle if the
37 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the
38 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous
39 billing cycle;

40 (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the
41 customer designates in, each billing cycle, if the customer’s average
42 daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer’s average daily
43 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle;

44 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
45 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas
46 public utility will notify the customer that the customer has reached
47 the threshold dollar value based on the customer’s electric or gas
48 usage for that billing cycle; and

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1 (4) provide a customer with the cost in dollars of the customer's
2 average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt
3 hours or therms of the customer's average monthly electricity or gas
4 usage in each notice provided pursuant to this subsection.

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

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

9 (a) electronic mail;

10 (b) posts on social media platforms;

11 (c) the electric public utility or gas public utility's Internet
12 website; and

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

14 (2) notify all smart meter customers via text message when the
15 electric public utility or gas public utility's "Energy Bill Watch"
16 program is available for customers and include in the notification
17 the choice to opt out of the program. If the electric public utility or
18 gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer's mobile
19 telephone number, the electric public utility or gas public utility
20 shall send the notification via electronic mail;

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

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

26

27 3. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall include,
28 at a minimum, the following information in each bill issued to a
29 customer:

30 (1) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
31 public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle;

32 (2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
33 public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and

34 (3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous
35 billing cycle and the current billing cycle.

36

37 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

38

39

40

STATEMENT

41

42 This bill requires each electric public utility and each gas public
43 utility that uses smart meters to establish an "Energy Bill Watch"
44 program to notify a smart meter customer when the customer's
45 electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds as provided in the
46 bill. Under an "Energy Bill Watch" program, an electric public
47 utility or gas public utility is required to: (1) notify a customer on
48 the 10th day of each billing cycle if the customer's average daily

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4

1 electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer's average daily
2 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle; (2) notify a
3 customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the customer
4 designates in, each billing cycle, if the customer's average daily
5 electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer's average daily
6 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle; (3) provide
7 a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value for the cost of
8 electric or gas service at which the electric public utility or gas
9 public utility will notify the customer that the customer has reached
10 the threshold dollar value based on the customer's electric or gas
11 usage for that billing cycle; and (4) provide a customer with the cost
12 in dollars of the customer's average monthly electricity or gas usage
13 and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer's
14 average monthly electricity or gas usage in each notice.

15 Under this bill, an electric public utility or gas public utility is
16 required to: (1) advertise the electric public utility or gas public
17 utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods, as
18 specified in the bill; (2) notify all smart meter customers when the
19 electric public utility or gas public utility's "Energy Bill Watch"
20 program is available for customers; (3) automatically enroll all
21 smart meter customers in the program; and (4) include in a
22 customer's first notice, guidance on how the customer can
23 customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy Bill Watch"
24 program.

25 This bill also requires that certain information be included in all
26 bills from an electric public utility or gas public utility to a
27 customer, including but not limited to: (1) the dollar amount
28 charged to the customer by the electric public utility or gas public
29 utility in the previous billing cycle; (2) the dollar amount charged to
30 the customer by the electric public utility or gas public utility in the
31 current billing cycle; and (3) the difference between the amount
32 charged in the previous billing cycle and the current billing cycle.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3620

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators McKeon, Timberlake, Singleton and Stack

SYNOPSIS

Requires electric and gas public utilities to establish “Energy Bill Watch” program and include certain information in bills and notices to customers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Economic Growth Committee on October 10, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/28/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utilities and
2 supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

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

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

14 “Smart meter” means a metering device that employs smart
15 meter technology to measure, record, and transmit utility usage data
16 to both a public utility and a customer for billing and other
17 purposes. “Smart meter” shall include a basic hourly interval
18 meter, a meter with one-way communication, and a real-time meter
19 with built-in, two-way communication capable of recording and
20 transmitting instantaneous utility usage data.

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

24

25 2. a. No later than 90 days following the effective date of
26 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
27 each electric public utility and each gas public utility that uses
28 smart meters to record customers’ electricity or gas usage
29 information shall establish a program, which program shall be
30 called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart meter customer when
31 the customer’s electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds 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 on the 10th day of each billing cycle if the
37 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the
38 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous
39 billing cycle;

40 (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the
41 customer designates in, each billing cycle, if the customer’s average
42 daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer’s average daily
43 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle;

44 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
45 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas

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 October 10, 2024.

1 public utility will notify the customer that the customer has reached
2 the threshold dollar value based on the customer's electric or gas
3 usage for that billing cycle; and

4 (4) provide a customer with the cost in dollars of the customer's
5 average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt
6 hours or therms of the customer's average monthly electricity or gas
7 usage in each notice provided pursuant to this subsection.

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

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

12 (a) electronic mail;

13 (b) posts on social media platforms;

14 (c) the electric public utility or gas public utility's Internet
15 website; and

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

17 (2) notify all smart meter customers via text message when the
18 electric public utility or gas public utility's "Energy Bill Watch"
19 program is available for customers and include in the notification
20 the choice to opt out of the program. If the electric public utility or
21 gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer's mobile
22 telephone number, the electric public utility or gas public utility
23 shall send the notification via electronic mail;

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

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

29

30 3. ¹a. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall
31 include, at a minimum, the following information in each bill issued to
32 a customer:

33 (1) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
34 public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle;

35 (2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
36 public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and

37 (3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous
38 billing cycle and the current billing cycle.

39 ¹b. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall include,
40 within each dollar amount required in each bill pursuant to subsection
41 a. of this section, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including, but not limited
42 to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas, third party supplier
43 services, and the societal benefits charge.¹

44

45 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3620

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators McKeon, Timberlake, Singleton and Stack

SYNOPSIS

Requires electric and gas public utilities to establish “Energy Bill Watch” program and include certain information in bills and notices to customers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee on December 9, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/28/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utilities and
2 supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

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

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

14 “Smart meter” means a metering device that employs smart
15 meter technology to measure, record, and transmit utility usage data
16 to both a public utility and a customer for billing and other
17 purposes. “Smart meter” shall include a basic hourly interval
18 meter, a meter with one-way communication, and a real-time meter
19 with built-in, two-way communication capable of recording and
20 transmitting instantaneous utility usage data.

21 “Smart meter customer” means a customer of an electric ²public
22 utility² or gas public utility whose electricity or gas usage is
23 measured using a smart meter.

24

25 2. a. No later than ²[90] 120² days following the effective
26 date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
27 bill), each electric public utility and each gas public utility that uses
28 smart meters to record customers’ electricity or gas usage
29 information shall establish a program, which program shall be
30 called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart meter customer when
31 the customer’s electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds 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 on the 10th day of each billing cycle if the
37 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the
38 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous
39 billing cycle ²or from the same billing cycle in the previous
40 calendar year²;

41 (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the
42 customer designates in, each billing cycle, if the customer’s average
43 daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer’s average daily
44 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle ²or from the
45 same billing cycle in the previous calendar year²;

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 October 10, 2024.

²Assembly ATU committee amendments adopted December 9, 2024.

1 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
2 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas
3 public utility will notify the customer that the customer has reached
4 the threshold dollar value based on the customer's ²**[electric]**
5 electricity² or gas usage for that billing cycle; and

6 (4) provide a customer with the cost in dollars of the customer's
7 average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt
8 hours or therms of the customer's average monthly electricity or gas
9 usage in each notice provided pursuant to this subsection.

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

11 (1) advertise the electric public ²**[utility]** utility's² or gas public
12 utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods,
13 including, but not limited to:

14 (a) electronic mail;

15 (b) posts on social media platforms;

16 (c) the electric public ²**[utility]** utility's² or gas public utility's
17 Internet website; and

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

19 (2) notify all smart meter customers via text message when the
20 electric public ²**[utility]** utility's² or gas public utility's "Energy
21 Bill Watch" program is available for customers and include in the
22 notification the choice to opt out of the program. If the electric
23 public utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter
24 customer's mobile telephone number, the electric public utility or
25 gas public utility shall send the notification via electronic mail;

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

28 (4) include in a customer's first notice ²**[,]**² guidance on how
29 the customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy
30 Bill Watch" program.

31

32 3. ¹a.¹ An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall
33 include, at a minimum, the following information in each bill issued to
34 a customer:

35 (1) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
36 public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle;

37 (2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
38 public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and

39 (3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous
40 billing cycle and the current billing cycle.

41 ¹b. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall include,
42 within each dollar amount required in each bill pursuant to subsection
43 a. of this section, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including, but not limited
44 to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas, third party supplier
45 services, and the societal benefits charge.¹

46

47 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

[Third Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3620

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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:

Senators McKeon, Timberlake, Singleton, Stack, Assemblyman Egan,

Assemblywomen Drulis, Ramirez, Assemblyman Hutchison,

Assemblywomen Donlon, Peterpaul, Assemblymen Moen, Venezia,

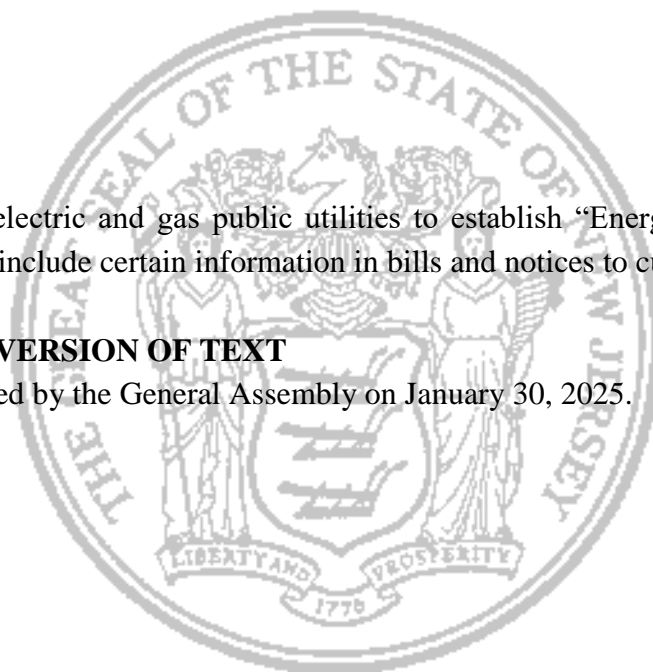
Assemblywoman Morales, Senators Moriarty and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Requires electric and gas public utilities to establish “Energy Bill Watch” program and include certain information in bills and notices to customers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on January 30, 2025.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utilities and
2 supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

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

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

14 “Smart meter” means ³**[a]** an electronic³ metering device that
15 ³**[employs smart meter technology to measure, record, and transmit**
16 **utility usage data to both]** measures and records utility usage data
17 in regular intervals on a daily basis and wirelessly transmits this
18 data to³ a public utility ³**[and a customer]**³ for billing and other
19 purposes. ³**[“Smart meter” shall include a basic hourly interval**
20 meter, a meter with one-way communication, and a real-time meter
21 with built-in, two-way communication capable of recording and
22 transmitting instantaneous utility usage data.]³

23 “Smart meter customer” means a customer of an electric ²public
24 utility² or gas public utility whose electricity or gas usage is
25 measured using a smart meter.

26

27 2. a. No later than ³**[²**[90]** 120²]** 90³ days following the
28 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
29 Legislature as this bill), each electric public utility and each gas
30 public utility that uses smart meters to record customers’ electricity
31 or gas usage information shall establish a program, which program
32 shall be called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart meter
33 customer ³**[when]** of³ the customer’s electricity or gas usage
34 ³**[exceeds certain thresholds]**³ as provided in subsection b. of this
35 section.

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

39 (1) notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle ³**[if**
40 **the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the**
41 **customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous**
42 **billing cycle ²or from the same billing cycle in the previous**
43 **calendar year²]** via text message or, if the electric public utility or

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 October 10, 2024.

²Assembly ATU committee amendments adopted December 9, 2024.

³Assembly floor amendments adopted January 30, 2025.

1 gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer's mobile
2 telephone number, via electronic mail, of the cost in dollars of the
3 customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the
4 time at which the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt
5 hours or therms of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the
6 billing cycle up to the time at which the notification is sent³;

7 (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of ³[, or at such points as
8 the customer designates in,]³ each billing cycle ³[, if the
9 customer's average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the
10 customer's average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous
11 billing cycle ²or from the same billing cycle in the previous
12 calendar year²] via text message or, if the electric public utility or
13 gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer's mobile
14 telephone number, via electronic mail, of the cost in dollars of the
15 customer's electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the
16 time at which the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt
17 hours or therms of the customer's electricity or gas usage for the
18 billing cycle up to the time at which the notification is sent³;

19 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
20 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas
21 public utility will notify the customer ³via the customer's selection
22 of text message or electronic mail³ that the customer has reached
23 the threshold dollar value based on the customer's ²[electric]
24 electricity² or gas usage for that billing cycle; and

25 (4) provide a customer with ³[the cost in dollars of the
26 customer's average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount
27 in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer's average monthly
28 electricity or gas usage in each notice provided pursuant to this
29 subsection] the option to receive a separate notice each billing
30 cycle that compares the customer's average daily electricity or gas
31 usage from that billing cycle with the customer's average daily
32 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle or from the
33 same billing cycle in the previous calendar year³.

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

35 (1) advertise the electric public ²[utility] utility's² or gas public
36 utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods,
37 including, but not limited to:

38 (a) electronic mail;

39 (b) posts on social media platforms;

40 (c) the electric public ²[utility] utility's² or gas public utility's
41 Internet website; and

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

43 (2) notify all smart meter customers via text message when the
44 electric public ²[utility] utility's² or gas public utility's "Energy
45 Bill Watch" program is available for customers and include in the
46 notification the choice to opt out of the program. If the electric

1 public utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter
2 customer's mobile telephone number, the electric public utility or
3 gas public utility shall send the notification via electronic mail;

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

6 (4) include in a customer's first notice ²[.]² guidance on how
7 the customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy
8 Bill Watch" program.

9

10 3. ¹a.¹ An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall
11 include, at a minimum, the following information in each bill issued to
12 a customer:

13 (1) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
14 public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle;

15 (2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
16 public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and

17 (3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous
18 billing cycle and the current billing cycle.

19 ¹b. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall include,
20 within each dollar amount required in each bill pursuant to subsection
21 a. of this section, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including, but not limited
22 to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas, third party supplier
23 services, and the societal benefits charge.¹

24

25 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3620

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 9, 2024

The Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3620 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill requires each electric public utility and each gas public utility that uses smart meters to establish an “Energy Bill Watch” program to notify a smart meter customer when the customer’s electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds as provided in the bill. Under an “Energy Bill Watch” program, an electric public utility or gas public utility is required to: (1) notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds 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; (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the customer designates in, each billing cycle if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds 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; (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric public utility or gas public utility will notify the customer 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 cost in dollars of the customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage in each notice.

Under this bill, an electric public utility or gas public utility is required to: (1) advertise the electric public utility’s or gas public utility’s “Energy Bill Watch” program through multiple methods, as specified in the bill; (2) notify all smart meter customers when the electric public utility’s or gas public utility’s “Energy Bill Watch” program is available for customers and include an option to opt out of the program; (3) automatically enroll all smart meter customers in the

“Energy Bill Watch” program; and (4) include in a customer’s first notice guidance on how the customer can customize notifications or opt out of the “Energy Bill Watch” program.

This bill also requires that certain information be included in all bills from an electric public utility or gas public utility to a customer, including, but not limited to: (1) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle; (2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and (3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous billing cycle and the current billing cycle. The bill requires an electric public utility or gas public utility to include, within each dollar amount, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including, but not limited to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas, third party supplier services, and the societal benefits charge.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3620 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4817, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) require electric public utilities and gas public utilities that use smart meters to establish “Energy Bill Watch” programs within 120 days, instead of 90 days, following the bill’s effective date;

(2) require an electric public utility and gas public utility, under an “Energy Bill Watch” program, to notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the same billing cycle in the previous calendar year, in addition to from the previous billing cycle;

(3) require an electric public utility and gas public utility, under an “Energy Bill Watch” program, to notify a customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the customer designates in, each billing cycle if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the same billing cycle in the previous calendar year, in addition to from the previous billing cycle; and

(4) make technical changes to the bill.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3620

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 10, 2024

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3620.

As amended and reported, this bill requires each electric public utility and each gas public utility that uses smart meters to establish an “Energy Bill Watch” program to notify a smart meter customer when the customer’s electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds as provided in the bill. Under an “Energy Bill Watch” program, an electric public utility or gas public utility is required to: (1) notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle; (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the customer designates in, each billing cycle, if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle; (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric public utility or gas public utility will notify the customer that the customer has reached the threshold dollar value based on the customer’s electric or gas usage for that billing cycle; and (4) provide a customer with the cost in dollars of the customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage in each notice.

Under this bill, an electric public utility or gas public utility is required to: (1) advertise the electric public utility or gas public utility’s “Energy Bill Watch” program through multiple methods, as specified in the bill; (2) notify all smart meter customers when the electric public utility or gas public utility’s “Energy Bill Watch” program is available for customers and include an option to opt out; (3) automatically enroll all smart meter customers in the “Energy Bill Watch” program; and (4) include in a customer’s first notice, guidance on how the customer can customize notifications or opt out of the “Energy Bill Watch” program.

This bill also requires that certain information be included in all bills from an electric public utility or gas public utility to a customer, including but not limited to: (1) the dollar amount charged to the

customer by the electric public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle; (2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and (3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous billing cycle and the current billing cycle. The bill requires an electric public utility or gas public utility to include, within each dollar amount, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including, but not limited to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas, third party supplier services, and the societal benefits charge.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments include a requirement for an electric public utility or gas public utility to include within each dollar amount required in each bill, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including, but not limited to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas, third party supplier services, and the societal benefits charge.

STATEMENT TO
[Second Reprint]
SENATE, No. 3620

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman BAILEY)

ADOPTED: JANUARY 30, 2025

These floor amendments change the definition of “smart meter” to mean 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.

The amendments also remove a provision that allows a customer to designate times during each billing cycle when the customer would receive certain electricity or gas usage notification from an electric public utility or a gas public utility (public utilities).

The amendments remove the requirement that public utilities notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle and 20th day of each billing cycle if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds 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. Instead, these floor amendments require public utilities to notify a customer via text message or, if the public utility does not possess a smart meter customer’s mobile telephone number, via electronic mail, on the 10th day of each billing cycle and the 20th day of each billing cycle of the cost in dollars of the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the time at 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 which the notification is sent.

The amendments also require public utilities, upon a customer’s request, to notify a customer if the customer’s electricity or gas usage has reached the customer’s set dollar value threshold via the customer’s selection of text message or electronic mail.

The amendments remove the requirement that public utilities provide a customer with the cost in dollars of the customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage in certain notices. Instead, these floor amendments require public utilities to provide a customer with the option to receive a separate notice each billing cycle that compares the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the current billing cycle with the customer’s average daily electricity and gas usage from the previous billing cycle or from the same billing cycle in the previous calendar year.

The amendments also specify that, under the “Energy Bill Watch” program, public utilities are to notify a smart meter customer of the

customer's electricity or gas usage as described in the bill, rather than notify a smart meter customer when the customer's electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds.

The amendments require each electric public utility and gas public utility to establish "Energy Bill Watch" programs no later than 90 days following the effective date of the bill, instead of 120 days following the effective date of the bill.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4817

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

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 Egan, Assemblywomen Drulis, Ramirez and Assemblyman Hutchison

SYNOPSIS

Requires electric and gas public utilities to establish “Energy Bill Watch” program and include certain information in bills and notices to customers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/9/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utilities and
2 supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

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

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

14 “Smart meter” means a metering device that employs smart
15 meter technology to measure, record, and transmit utility usage data
16 to both a public utility and a customer for billing and other
17 purposes. “Smart meter” shall include a basic hourly interval
18 meter, a meter with one-way communication, and a real-time meter
19 with built-in, two-way communication capable of recording and
20 transmitting instantaneous utility usage data.

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

24

25 2. a. No later than 90 days following the effective date of
26 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
27 each electric public utility and each gas public utility that uses
28 smart meters to record customers’ electricity or gas usage
29 information shall establish a program, which program shall be
30 called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart meter customer when
31 the customer’s electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds 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 on the 10th day of each billing cycle if the
37 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the
38 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous
39 billing cycle;

40 (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the
41 customer designates in, each billing cycle, if the customer’s average
42 daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer’s average daily
43 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle;

44 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
45 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas
46 public utility will notify the customer that the customer has reached
47 the threshold dollar value based on the customer’s electric or gas
48 usage for that billing cycle; and

- 1 (4) provide a customer with the cost in dollars of the customer's
2 average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt
3 hours or therms of the customer's average monthly electricity or gas
4 usage in each notice provided pursuant to this subsection.
- 5 c. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall:
- 6 (1) advertise the electric public utility or gas public utility's
7 "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods, including,
8 but not limited to:
- 9 (a) electronic mail;
10 (b) posts on social media platforms;
11 (c) the electric public utility or gas public utility's Internet
12 website; and
13 (d) bills to customers who possess smart meters;
- 14 (2) notify all smart meter customers via text message when the
15 electric public utility or gas public utility's "Energy Bill Watch"
16 program is available for customers and include in the notification
17 the choice to opt out of the program. If the electric public utility or
18 gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer's mobile
19 telephone number, the electric public utility or gas public utility
20 shall send the notification via electronic mail;
- 21 (3) automatically enroll all smart meter customers in the
22 program; and
- 23 (4) include in a customer's first notice, guidance on how the
24 customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy Bill
25 Watch" program.
- 26
- 27 3. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall include,
28 at a minimum, the following information in each bill issued to a
29 customer:
- 30 (1) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
31 public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle;
32 (2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
33 public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and
34 (3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous
35 billing cycle and the current billing cycle.
- 36
- 37 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
- 38
39

40 STATEMENT

41

42 This bill requires each electric public utility and each gas public
43 utility that uses smart meters to establish an "Energy Bill Watch"
44 program to notify a smart meter customer when the customer's
45 electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds as provided in the
46 bill. Under an "Energy Bill Watch" program, an electric public
47 utility or gas public utility is required to: (1) notify a customer on
48 the 10th day of each billing cycle if the customer's average daily

1 electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer's average daily
2 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle; (2) notify a
3 customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the customer
4 designates in, each billing cycle, if the customer's average daily
5 electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer's average daily
6 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle; (3) provide
7 a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value for the cost of
8 electric or gas service at which the electric public utility or gas
9 public utility will notify the customer that the customer has reached
10 the threshold dollar value based on the customer's electric or gas
11 usage for that billing cycle; and (4) provide a customer with the cost
12 in dollars of the customer's average monthly electricity or gas usage
13 and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer's
14 average monthly electricity or gas usage in each notice.

15 Under this bill, an electric public utility or gas public utility is
16 required to: (1) advertise the electric public utility or gas public
17 utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods, as
18 specified in the bill; (2) notify all smart meter customers when the
19 electric public utility or gas public utility's "Energy Bill Watch"
20 program is available for customers; (3) automatically enroll all
21 smart meter customers in the program; and (4) include in a
22 customer's first notice, guidance on how the customer can
23 customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy Bill Watch"
24 program.

25 This bill also requires that certain information be included in all
26 bills from an electric public utility or gas public utility to a
27 customer, including but not limited to: (1) the dollar amount
28 charged to the customer by the electric public utility or gas public
29 utility in the previous billing cycle; (2) the dollar amount charged to
30 the customer by the electric public utility or gas public utility in the
31 current billing cycle; and (3) the difference between the amount
32 charged in the previous billing cycle and the current billing cycle.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4817

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

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:

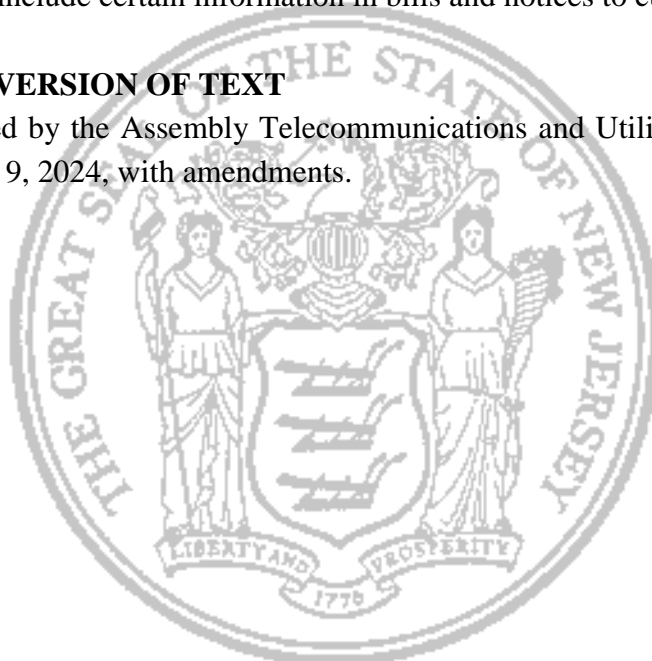
**Assemblyman Egan, Assemblywomen Drulis, Ramirez and Assemblyman
Hutchison**

SYNOPSIS

Requires electric and gas public utilities to establish “Energy Bill Watch” program and include certain information in bills and notices to customers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee on December 9, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/9/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utilities and
2 supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

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

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

14 “Smart meter” means a metering device that employs smart
15 meter technology to measure, record, and transmit utility usage data
16 to both a public utility and a customer for billing and other
17 purposes. “Smart meter” shall include a basic hourly interval
18 meter, a meter with one-way communication, and a real-time meter
19 with built-in, two-way communication capable of recording and
20 transmitting instantaneous utility usage data.

21 “Smart meter customer” means a customer of an electric ¹public
22 utility¹ or gas public utility whose electricity or gas usage is
23 measured using a smart meter.

24

25 2. a. No later than ¹[90] 120¹ days following the effective
26 date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
27 bill), each electric public utility and each gas public utility that uses
28 smart meters to record customers’ electricity or gas usage
29 information shall establish a program, which program shall be
30 called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart meter customer when
31 the customer’s electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds 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 on the 10th day of each billing cycle if the
37 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the
38 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous
39 billing cycle ¹or from the same billing cycle in the previous
40 calendar year¹;

41 (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the
42 customer designates in, each billing cycle, if the customer’s average
43 daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer’s average daily
44 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle ¹or from the
45 same billing cycle in the previous calendar year¹;

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 December 9, 2024.

1 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
2 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas
3 public utility will notify the customer that the customer has reached
4 the threshold dollar value based on the customer's ¹["electric]
5 electricity¹ or gas usage for that billing cycle; and

6 (4) provide a customer with the cost in dollars of the customer's
7 average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt
8 hours or therms of the customer's average monthly electricity or gas
9 usage in each notice provided pursuant to this subsection.

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

11 (1) advertise the electric public ¹["utility] utility's¹ or gas public
12 utility's "Energy Bill Watch" program through multiple methods,
13 including, but not limited to:

14 (a) electronic mail;

15 (b) posts on social media platforms;

16 (c) the electric public ¹["utility] utility's¹ or gas public utility's
17 Internet website; and

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

19 (2) notify all smart meter customers via text message when the
20 electric public ¹["utility] utility's¹ or gas public utility's "Energy
21 Bill Watch" program is available for customers and include in the
22 notification the choice to opt out of the program. If the electric
23 public utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter
24 customer's mobile telephone number, the electric public utility or
25 gas public utility shall send the notification via electronic mail;

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

28 (4) include in a customer's first notice ¹[" "]¹ guidance on how
29 the customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy
30 Bill Watch" program.

31

32 3. ¹a.¹ An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall
33 include, at a minimum, the following information in each bill issued
34 to a customer:

35 (1) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
36 public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle;

37 (2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
38 public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and

39 (3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous
40 billing cycle and the current billing cycle.

41 ¹b. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall include,
42 within each dollar amount required in each bill pursuant to
43 subsection a. of this section, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including,
44 but not limited to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas,
45 third party supplier services, and the societal benefits charge.¹

46

47 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4817

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

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:

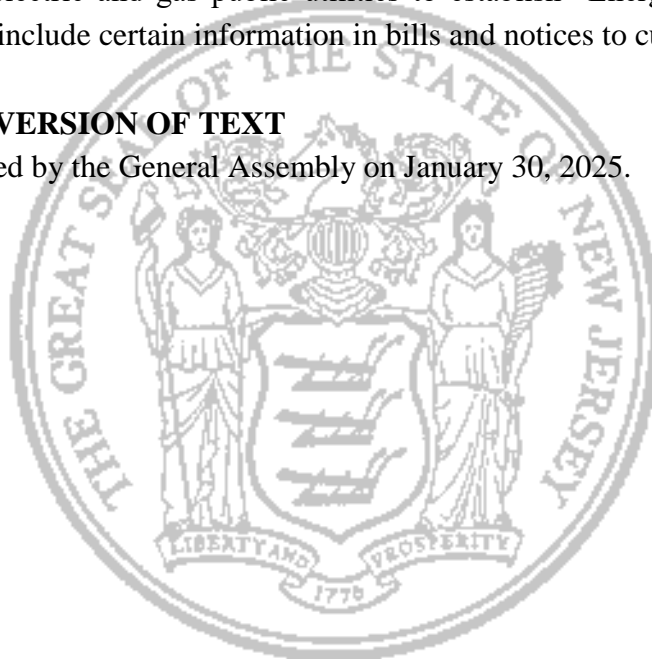
Assemblyman Egan, Assemblywomen Drulis, Ramirez, Assemblyman Hutchison, Assemblywomen Donlon, Peterpaul, Assemblymen Moen, Venezia and Assemblywoman Morales

SYNOPSIS

Requires electric and gas public utilities to establish “Energy Bill Watch” program and include certain information in bills and notices to customers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on January 30, 2025.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/27/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning electric and gas public utilities and
2 supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

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

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

14 “Smart meter” means ²**[a]** an electronic² metering device that
15 ²**[employs smart meter technology to measure, record, and transmit**
16 **utility usage data to both]** measures and records utility usage data
17 in regular intervals on a daily basis and wirelessly transmits this
18 data to² a public utility ²**[and a customer]**² for billing and other
19 purposes. ²**[“Smart meter” shall include a basic hourly interval**
20 meter, a meter with one-way communication, and a real-time meter
21 with built-in, two-way communication capable of recording and
22 transmitting instantaneous utility usage data.]²

23 “Smart meter customer” means a customer of an electric ¹public
24 utility¹ or gas public utility whose electricity or gas usage is
25 measured using a smart meter.

26

27 2. a. No later than ²**[¹**[90]** 120¹]** 90² days following the
28 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
29 Legislature as this bill), each electric public utility and each gas
30 public utility that uses smart meters to record customers’ electricity
31 or gas usage information shall establish a program, which program
32 shall be called “Energy Bill Watch,” to notify a smart meter
33 customer ²**[when]** of² the customer’s electricity or gas usage
34 ²**[exceeds certain thresholds]**² as provided in subsection b. of this
35 section.

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

39 (1) notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle ²**[if**
40 **the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the**
41 **customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous**
42 **billing cycle ¹or from the same billing cycle in the previous**
43 **calendar year¹]** via text message or, if the electric public utility or

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 December 9, 2024.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted January 30, 2025.

1 gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer’s mobile
2 telephone number, via electronic mail, of the cost in dollars of the
3 customer’s electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the
4 time at which the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt
5 hours or therms of the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the
6 billing cycle up to the time at which the notification is sent²;

7 (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of ²[, or at such points as
8 the customer designates in,]² each billing cycle ²[, if the
9 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the
10 customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the previous
11 billing cycle ¹or from the same billing cycle in the previous
12 calendar year¹] via text message or, if the electric public utility or
13 gas public utility does not possess a smart meter customer’s mobile
14 telephone number, via electronic mail, of the cost in dollars of the
15 customer’s electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the
16 time at which the notification is sent and the amount in kilowatt
17 hours or therms of the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the
18 billing cycle up to the time at which the notification is sent²;

19 (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value
20 for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric or gas
21 public utility will notify the customer ²via the customer’s selection
22 of text message or electronic mail² that the customer has reached
23 the threshold dollar value based on the customer’s ¹[**electric**]
24 electricity¹ or gas usage for that billing cycle; and

25 (4) provide a customer with ²[**the cost in dollars of the**
26 **customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount**
27 **in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer’s average monthly**
28 **electricity or gas usage in each notice provided pursuant to this**
29 **subsection]** the option to receive a separate notice each billing
30 cycle that compares the customer’s average daily electricity or gas
31 usage from that billing cycle with the customer’s average daily
32 electricity or gas usage from the previous billing cycle or from the
33 same billing cycle in the previous calendar year².

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

35 (1) advertise the electric public ¹[**utility**] utility’s¹ or gas public
36 utility’s “Energy Bill Watch” program through multiple methods,
37 including, but not limited to:

38 (a) electronic mail;

39 (b) posts on social media platforms;

40 (c) the electric public ¹[**utility**] utility’s¹ or gas public utility’s
41 Internet website; and

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

43 (2) notify all smart meter customers via text message when the
44 electric public ¹[**utility**] utility’s¹ or gas public utility’s “Energy
45 Bill Watch” program is available for customers and include in the
46 notification the choice to opt out of the program. If the electric

1 public utility or gas public utility does not possess a smart meter
2 customer's mobile telephone number, the electric public utility or
3 gas public utility shall send the notification via electronic mail;

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

6 (4) include in a customer's first notice ¹[,]¹ guidance on how
7 the customer can customize notifications or opt out of the "Energy
8 Bill Watch" program.

9

10 3. ¹a.¹ An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall
11 include, at a minimum, the following information in each bill issued
12 to a customer:

13 (1) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
14 public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle;

15 (2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric
16 public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and

17 (3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous
18 billing cycle and the current billing cycle.

19 ¹b. An electric public utility or a gas public utility shall include,
20 within each dollar amount required in each bill pursuant to
21 subsection a. of this section, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including,
22 but not limited to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas,
23 third party supplier services, and the societal benefits charge.¹

24

25 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 4817

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 9, 2024

The Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4817.

As amended and reported, this bill requires each electric public utility and each gas public utility that uses smart meters to establish an “Energy Bill Watch” program to notify a smart meter customer when the customer’s electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds as provided in the bill. Under an “Energy Bill Watch” program, an electric public utility or gas public utility is required to: (1) notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds 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; (2) notify a customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the customer designates in, each billing cycle if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds 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; (3) provide a customer the option to set a threshold dollar value for the cost of electric or gas service at which the electric public utility or gas public utility will notify the customer 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 cost in dollars of the customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage in each notice.

Under this bill, an electric public utility or gas public utility is required to: (1) advertise the electric public utility’s or gas public utility’s “Energy Bill Watch” program through multiple methods, as specified in the bill; (2) notify all smart meter customers when the electric public utility’s or gas public utility’s “Energy Bill Watch” program is available for customers and include an option to opt out of the program; (3) automatically enroll all smart meter customers in the “Energy Bill Watch” program; and (4) include in a customer’s first

notice guidance on how the customer can customize notifications or opt out of the “Energy Bill Watch” program.

This bill also requires that certain information be included in all bills from an electric public utility or gas public utility to a customer, including, but not limited to: (1) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric public utility or gas public utility in the previous billing cycle; (2) the dollar amount charged to the customer by the electric public utility or gas public utility in the current billing cycle; and (3) the difference between the amount charged in the previous billing cycle and the current billing cycle. The bill requires an electric public utility or gas public utility to include, within each dollar amount, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including, but not limited to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas, third party supplier services, and the societal benefits charge.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4817 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3620 (1R), which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) require electric public utilities and gas public utilities that use smart meters to establish “Energy Bill Watch” programs within 120 days, instead of 90 days, following the bill’s effective date;

(2) require an electric public utility and gas public utility, under an “Energy Bill Watch” program, to notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the same billing cycle in the previous calendar year, in addition to from the previous billing cycle;

(3) require an electric public utility and gas public utility, under an “Energy Bill Watch” program, to notify a customer on the 20th day of, or at such points as the customer designates in, each billing cycle if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the same billing cycle in the previous calendar year, in addition to from the previous billing cycle;

(4) require an electric public utility or gas public utility to include, within each dollar amount required in each bill, any tariffs, fees, or taxes, including, but not limited to, charges for the distribution of electricity or gas, third party supplier services, and the societal benefits charge; and

(5) make technical changes to the bill.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 4817

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman BAILEY)

ADOPTED: JANUARY 30, 2025

These floor amendments change the definition of “smart meter” to mean 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.

The amendments also remove a provision that allows a customer to designate times during each billing cycle when the customer would receive certain electricity or gas usage notification from an electric public utility or a gas public utility (public utilities).

The amendments remove the requirement that public utilities notify a customer on the 10th day of each billing cycle and 20th day of each billing cycle if the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage exceeds 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. Instead, these floor amendments require public utilities to notify a customer via text message or, if the public utility does not possess a smart meter customer’s mobile telephone number, via electronic mail, on the 10th day of each billing cycle and the 20th day of each billing cycle of the cost in dollars of the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the time at 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 which the notification is sent.

The amendments also require public utilities, upon a customer’s request, to notify a customer if the customer’s electricity or gas usage has reached the customer’s set dollar value threshold via the customer’s selection of text message or electronic mail.

The amendments remove the requirement that public utilities provide a customer with the cost in dollars of the customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage and the amount in kilowatt hours or therms of the customer’s average monthly electricity or gas usage in certain notices. Instead, these floor amendments require public utilities to provide a customer with the option to receive a separate notice each billing cycle that compares the customer’s average daily electricity or gas usage from the current billing cycle with the customer’s average daily electricity and gas usage from the previous billing cycle or from the same billing cycle in the previous calendar year.

The amendments also specify that, under the “Energy Bill Watch” program, public utilities are to notify a smart meter customer of the

customer's electricity or gas usage as described in the bill, rather than notify a smart meter customer when the customer's electricity or gas usage exceeds certain thresholds.

The amendments require each electric public utility and gas public utility to establish "Energy Bill Watch" programs no later than 90 days following the effective date of the bill, instead of 120 days following the effective date of the bill.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

04/22/2025

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

S-742/A-2609 (Diegnan/Karabinchak, Carter, DePhillips) - Appropriates unexpended funds from “New Jersey Bridge Rehabilitation and Improvement and Railroad Right-of-way Preservation Bond Act of 1989”

S-3620/A-4817 (Burzichelli, Turner/Bailey, Simmons, Miller) - Requires electric and gas public utilities to establish “Energy Bill Watch” program and include certain information in bills and notices to customers

S-3388/A-4391 (Singleton, Gopal/Katz, Donlon, Stanley) - Allows pharmacists to transfer Schedule II attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder prescriptions

A-5067/S-3918 (Karabinchak, Stanley, Coughlin/Diegnan) - Requires appointment of alternate members of Peter J. Barnes III Wildlife Preservation Commission

S-2594/A-3951 (Bucco, Smith/Bailey, Fantasia, Greenwald) - Appropriates \$28,670,924 in 2003 and 1992 bond act monies for loans for dam restoration and repair projects and inland waters projects

Posted on: April 22, 2025

Burzichelli, Turner Bill to Manage Utility Use, Prevent ‘Sticker Shock’ of Costly Bills Becomes Law

TRENTON – Legislation authored by Senator John Burzichelli and Senator Shirley Turner that will have utility companies adopt an early notification program that alerts consumers of their energy use so they can avoid unexpected and expensive electric and gas bills was signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy today.



The law (S-3620) establishes the “**Energy BillWatch**” program to automatically inform customers of their energy use at regular, early intervals so they can manage consumption to accommodate their needs.

“The sudden spike in energy bills inflicted on New Jersey residents can cause sticker shock for consumers,” said Senator Burzichelli (D-Gloucester/Salem/Cumberland). “This is a crisis in utility costs that makes it difficult for residents to manage household finances. This program will alert homeowners and renters so they aren’t caught by surprise with exorbitant bills and are provided with real-time information so they can manage their energy consumption and better control costs.”

“At a time when New Jersey families and senior citizens are expecting to see their electric bills rise, we need to ensure that they have tools to help them better manage and control costs before it becomes more of a financial burden,” said Senator Shirley Turner (D-Mercer/Hunterdon). “This legislation puts transparency and consumer awareness at the forefront, allowing residents to adjust their thermostats to save energy and money before they get surprised by a higher-than-usual bill.”

The program requires public utilities to notify a customer via text message or, if the public utility does not possess a customer’s mobile telephone number, via electronic mail on the 10th day of each billing cycle and the 20th day of each cycle. The notice will include the cost in dollars of the customer’s electricity or gas usage for the billing cycle up to the time 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 of the notification.

The requirement applies to electric and gas companies that use smart meters.

Energy BillWatch is an “opt-out” program, meaning customers would be automatically enrolled unless they choose not to participate. The process would be more user-friendly than even the “opt-in” services that some companies offer because they can be cumbersome and even unknown to many customers, Senator Burzichelli said.

The companies would have to inform customers of the program and advertise its availability through billing, social media, and emails.

Posted on: April 22, 2025

Legislation to Help Jersey Residents Manage Utility Costs Signed into Law

Bailey, Simmons, Miller bill creating "Energy Bill Watch" Program seeks to prevent sticker shock when New Jersey residents receive their utility bills

(TRENTON) — Ahead of the anticipated rise in utility costs and after one of the hottest summers on record and a winter with below-freezing temperatures, Governor Phil Murphy signed a bill into law today to ensure New Jersey residents are not caught off guard by unexpected and excessive utility bills.



Bill **A4817**, sponsored by Assembly members **Dave Bailey Jr.**, **Heather Simmons**, and **Cody Miller**, will require electric and gas public utilities to establish an “Energy Bill Watch” program. The program would notify smart meter customers when their energy consumption exceeds certain thresholds, giving them the tools to manage their usage and avoid high costs.

“The sticker shock of large utility bills at the end of the month can be unaffordable for working families trying to manage household finances,” **said Assemblyman Bailey (D-Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland)**. “The early notifications will give them the ability to adjust their usage and prevent surprise bills that break their budgets.”

“Public utility companies should be taking advantage of the technology and rapid communication methods we have available to keep every household informed,” **said Assemblywoman Simmons (D-Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland)**. “This plan will provide the information that customers need in ways that are easy to use.”

“Everyone deserves to come home to a comfortable environment, whether it's cooling off in the summer or warming up in the winter, without the worry of high energy costs,” **said Assemblyman Miller (D-Atlantic, Camden, Gloucester)**. “By providing up-to-date information through simple notifications, we can help families better budget and plan for their energy use, ensuring that comfort doesn’t come at a financial cost.”

In addition to A4817, Assembly Democrats have unveiled a legislative package to provide immediate relief and create long-term solutions for fair energy pricing and better access to assistance programs.