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H.677

Introduced by Representatives Turner of Milton and Savage of Swanton  
Referred to Committee on  
Date:  
Subject: Energy; public service; electric bills  
Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require electric distribution  
utilities to itemize power charges in their bills to customers.

An act relating to transparency in billing for electric power

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 209b is amended to read:

§ 209b. ~~{RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE.}~~ ELECTRIC BILL

ITEMIZATION

(a) Definitions. In this section:

(1) "Bill" means a direct statement of payments due issued periodically  
by a retail electricity provider to a retail customer of the provider.

(2) "Fixed customer charge" means a fixed fee on a bill that a retail  
customer must pay to a provider regardless of how much electricity the  
customer consumes.

(3) "Power charge" means an item on a bill that allocates by kWh the  
cost of power generated or purchased by the provider to distribute directly to

1 retail customers and includes capacity, energy, and the cost to transmit power  
2 to the point at which the provider accepts delivery of the power.

3 (4) “Power charge – conventional fuels and hydroelectric” means a  
4 power charge that includes the cost of power generated or purchased by a  
5 provider that is from a hydroelectric generation plant or, if it is not from such a  
6 plant, that is from a plant whose fuel source is not renewable energy.

7 (5) “Power charge – nonhydro renewables” means a power charge that  
8 includes the cost of power generated or purchased by a provider from a plant  
9 that uses renewable energy as its fuel source and is not a hydroelectric  
10 generation plant.

11 (6) “Provider” means “retail electricity provider.”

12 (7) “Renewable energy” shall have the same meaning as under  
13 subdivision 8002(2) of this title.

14 (8) “Retail electricity provider” shall have the same meaning as under  
15 subdivision 8002(9) of this title.

16 (b) On each provider’s bill, line item charges presented to the customer  
17 shall include at least the following:

18 (1) Fixed customer charge.

19 (2) Power charge – conventional fuels and hydroelectric.

20 (3) Power charge – nonhydro renewables.

1           (4) Energy efficiency charge in accordance with subdivision 209(d)(3)  
2 of this title.

3           (5) Other kWh charges. This line item includes all charges allocated by  
4 kWh to a customer that are not included in subdivisions (2)–(4) of this  
5 subsection. The item includes the cost of building, operating, and maintaining  
6 a provider’s transmission and distribution system and any regionalized  
7 transmission costs paid by the provider, billing and collection services, payroll,  
8 administrative costs, expenses, metering services, and the tax on the provider  
9 pursuant to section 22 of this title.

10           (c) Each provider’s bill shall set out the specific rate per kWh for the items  
11 described in subdivisions (b)(2)–(5) of this section.

12           (d) For demand and time-of-use customers, a provider may include such  
13 additional line items in its bill as necessary to implement the applicable rate  
14 schedule approved by the public service board.

15           (e) The public service board may adopt rules or orders to carry out this  
16 section.

17           (f) Every May and November, each provider shall include with its bill to  
18 each retail customer an information sheet that explains each item on the  
19 provider’s bill, in a form approved by the commissioner of public service.

20 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATES; NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

21           (a) This section shall take effect on passage.

1       (b) In Sec. 1 of this act, 30 V.S.A. § 209b(a)–(e) (electric bill itemization)  
2       shall take effect on January 1, 2013, and shall apply to bills rendered on and  
3       after that date.

4       (c) In Sec. 1 of this act, 30 V.S.A. § 209b(f) (information sheet) shall take  
5       effect on passage.

6       (d) During November 2012, each retail electricity provider in Vermont  
7       shall include with its bill to each retail customer an information sheet in  
8       accordance with Sec. 1, 30 V.S.A. § 209b(f). In addition to the requirements  
9       of 30 V.S.A. § 209b(f), this information sheet shall include notice of the  
10       changes to the provider’s bill, resulting from this act, that will commence on or  
11       after January 1, 2013. Such notice shall be in a form approved by the  
12       commissioner of public service.