

HOUSE BILL NO. 81

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROKEBERG, Dyson

Introduced: 2/5/99

Referred: House Special Committee on Utility Restructuring, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the provision of electric service in the state; and providing
2 for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 42.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 42.05.226. Electric consumer protections.** (a) The commission shall
6 establish by regulation

7 (1) consumer protection standards to protect consumers in a competitive
8 electric service market;

9 (2) licensing requirements for electric service providers operating in a
10 competitive electric service market;

11 (3) procedures for the prompt, effective, and low-cost resolution of
12 consumer complaints against electric suppliers, aggregators, and distributors operating
13 in a competitive electric service market;

14 (4) minimum safety standards and service criteria for electric service

1 providers operating in a competitive electric service market; and

2 (5) penalties for electric service providers operating in a competitive
3 electric service market who fail to comply with the requirements of this chapter.

4 (b) The consumer protection standards adopted under (a) of this section must
5 require electric service providers operating in a competitive electric service market to

6 (1) provide consumers with free or reasonably priced information and
7 educational materials to enable consumers to compare the price, quality, supplier
8 service record, and terms of service offered by the electric service provider with the
9 offerings of other providers in the market;

10 (2) offer electric service to any consumer in the area served by the
11 electric service provider so long as providing the service is technically feasible at a
12 reasonable cost to the provider;

13 (3) provide electric service choices and pricing options to all consumers
14 without discrimination;

15 (4) maintain information and records, including records concerning
16 individual electric use patterns, about the electric service provider's consumers as
17 confidential records; however, an electric service provider may report information to
18 the commission so long as the information does not identify directly or indirectly an
19 individual consumer;

20 (5) meet the minimum safety standards and service criteria established
21 by the commission;

22 (6) meet its advertised terms and conditions;

23 (7) refrain from imposing unreasonable terms and conditions as a
24 precondition to providing service to a consumer in a competitive electric service
25 market.

26 (c) The commission shall adopt regulations to require electric service providers
27 operating in a competitive electric service market to continue to provide electric
28 service to residential consumers who demonstrate that economic hardship has
29 prevented payment in full of a delinquent bill. The regulations may require the
30 consumer to agree to a reasonable deferred payment plan and to comply with the plan.

31 (d) The commission shall adopt regulations to require a supplier or an

1 aggregator operating in a competitive electric service market to meet minimum
2 standards for certification as a condition of market entry. The commission shall, by
3 regulation, adopt the standards for certification.

4 (e) The commission shall, by regulation, provide that an electric service
5 consumer in a competitive electric service market may receive only one periodic
6 billing for the provision of electric service to a location. The billing must set out
7 information in a clear and concise manner so that the consumer is informed about the
8 components of the billing, including charges associated with generation and with
9 transmission and distribution.

10 * **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).