

By Senator Dean

5-00159B-15

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to public utilities; amending s.  
3       366.05, F.S.; requiring that any proposed change in a  
4       public utility's billing cycle be approved by the  
5       Florida Public Service Commission by a specified  
6       period before the effective date of the change;  
7       requiring the commission to consider the public impact  
8       of a proposed change; prohibiting the extension of a  
9       billing cycle by more than a specified period;  
10      prohibiting a public utility from charging a consumer  
11      or user a higher rate in certain circumstances;  
12      providing an exception; providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16       Section 1. Subsection (12) is added to section 366.05,  
17 Florida Statutes, to read:

18       366.05 Powers.—

19       (12) A proposed change in a public utility's billing cycle  
20 must be approved by the commission at least 1 month before the  
21 effective date of the change. In reviewing a proposal, the  
22 commission shall consider the public impact of the proposed  
23 change. The commission may not approve more than a 7-day  
24 extension of a billing cycle. An increase in energy usage  
25 attributable solely to an extension may not result in the  
26 charging of a higher rate to a consumer or user. This subsection  
27 does not apply to a change in a billing cycle which is  
28 necessitated by a state of emergency declared by the Governor.

29       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.