

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/11/21 H4/6/21*

2 93rd General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2021

HOUSE BILL 1557

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5 By: Representatives Murdock, F. Allen, Ennett, K. Ferguson, V. Flowers, M. Hodges, Love, Nicks,

6 Richardson, Scott, Springer

7 By: Senators L. Chesterfield, Elliott, S. Flowers

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO HAVE AN  
11 EMERGENCY PLAN IN PLACE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH  
12 DISABILITIES OR THE ELDERLY DURING CERTAIN WEATHER  
13 EVENTS; TO REQUIRE AN ELECTRIC UTILITY TO DIRECTLY  
14 NOTIFY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF PLANNED POWER OUTAGES AND  
15 OTHER EMERGENCY MEASURES TO REDUCE ENERGY  
16 CONSUMPTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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## Subtitle

20 TO REQUIRE ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO HAVE AN  
21 EMERGENCY PLAN IN PLACE DURING CERTAIN  
22 WEATHER EVENTS; AND TO REQUIRE AN  
23 ELECTRIC UTILITY TO DIRECTLY NOTIFY LOCAL  
24 GOVERNMENTS OF CERTAIN EMERGENCY MEASURES  
25 TO REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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30 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 18, Subchapter 1, is  
31 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

32 23-18-110. Planned power outages and other emergency measures to  
33 reduce energy consumption – Notice requirements – Definitions.

34 (a) As used in this section:

35 (1)(A) "Directly notify" means, to the extent technically  
36 feasible, to use best efforts to provide notification within a reasonable



1 time before a coordinated interruption of electric service or other emergency  
2 measure to reduce energy consumption in response to extreme weather  
3 conditions as directed by a regional transmission organization or reliability  
4 coordinator.

5 (B) "Directly notify" does not include the use of social  
6 media;

7 (2) "Electric utility" means a utility that furnishes  
8 electricity to retail customers for compensation:

9 (A) Through a municipally owned utility system; or

10 (B) As a public utility under the jurisdiction of the  
11 Arkansas Public Service Commission; and

12 (3) "Local government" means:

13 (A) A county;

14 (B) A city of the first class or city of the second class;  
15 or

16 (C) An incorporated town.

17 (b)(1) A local government may notify an electric utility to identify  
18 the location of any emergency warming centers or emergency cooling centers  
19 established to protect the elderly and individuals with disabilities during  
20 emergency weather events.

21 (2) A local government that identifies any warming center or  
22 cooling center under subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall provide  
23 sufficient details concerning the number, location, and designated contact  
24 person for coordination of information regarding service to any emergency  
25 warming center or emergency cooling center.

26 (c) An electric utility that has received notice from a local  
27 government as described in subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall:

28 (1) Include the locations of any emergency warming centers or  
29 emergency cooling centers as part of the electric utility's overall planning  
30 process to implement a coordinated interruption of electric service or other  
31 emergency measure to reduce energy consumption in response to extreme weather  
32 conditions as directed by a regional transmission organization or reliability  
33 coordinator; and

34 (2) To the extent technically feasible, use the public utility's  
35 best efforts to:

36 (A) Directly notify any persons identified as the

1 appropriate points of contact by the local government as soon as reasonably  
2 possible when a coordinated interruption of electric service or other  
3 emergency measure to reduce energy consumption in response to extreme weather  
4 conditions as directed by a regional transmission organization or reliability  
5 coordinator will be implemented; and

6 (B) Give priority to:

7 (i) Avoid interrupting electric service; and

8 (ii) Restoring electric service to any emergency  
9 warming centers or emergency cooling centers identified by the local  
10 government.

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12 /s/Murdock

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15 **APPROVED: 4/25/21**  
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