

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

As Engrossed: H3/11/21

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1557

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

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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

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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 cause notification to be  
36 received within a reasonable time before a planned event.



1 (B) "Directly notify" does not include the use of social  
2 media;

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

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

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

8 (3) "Local government" means:

9 (A) A county;

10 (B) A city of the first class or city of the second class;  
11 or

12 (C) An incorporated town.

13 (b)(1) A local government may file an emergency plan with an electric  
14 utility to identify emergency warming centers and other emergency mechanisms  
15 or tools during emergency weather events to protect the elderly and  
16 individuals with disabilities.

17 (2) An emergency plan described under subdivision (b)(1) of this  
18 section shall provide sufficient details concerning the number, location, and  
19 designated contact person for coordination of emergency warming centers.

20 (c) An electric utility that has received an emergency plan described  
21 in subdivision (b)(1) of this section shall:

22 (1) Include the emergency plan as part of the electric utility's  
23 overall planning process to implement a planned power outage or other  
24 emergency measure to reduce energy consumption;

25 (2) Notify any persons identified in the emergency plan as soon  
26 as reasonably possible when a planned power outage or other emergency measure  
27 to reduce energy consumption will be implemented; and

28 (3) To the extent technically feasible, avoid planning a power  
29 outage and other emergency measures to reduce energy consumption that may  
30 disrupt the emergency plan.

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32 /s/Murdock  
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