

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

As Engrossed: H3/11/21 H4/6/21

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 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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