1	State of Arkansas	A Bill	
2	94th General Assembly	ADIII	HOUGE DILL 1201
3	Regular Session, 2023		HOUSE BILL 1291
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5	By: Representatives Gazaway,	•	
6 7	By: Senators C. Tucker, J. Bry	'ant	
8		For An Act To Be Entitled	
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10		AS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC UTILITI	
11		INDUSTRIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE	
12	REGULATED	INDUSTRIES, AND TOR OTHER TORIOSE	5 •
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14		Subtitle	
15	TO MA	KE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE	£ 23
16	OF TH	E ARKANSAS CODE CONCERNING PUBLIC	
17	UTILI	TIES AND REGULATED INDUSTRIES.	
18			
19			
20	BE IT ENACTED BY THE G	ENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF A	RKANSAS:
21			
22	SECTION 1. Unco	dified Acts 2021, No. 404, is rep	ealed because the act
23	was in conflict with A	cts 2021, No. 894, and was supers	eded by Acts 2021, No.
24	894, pursuant to Arkan	sas Code § 1-2-207(b).	
25	SECTION 1. Arka	nsas Code § 23-4-422 is amended t	o read as follows:
26	23-4-422. Cost	allocation - Definition.	
27	(a)(1) The Arka	nsas Public Service Commission sh	all establish and
28	regulate the rates and	charges of a public utility unde	r this subchapter and
29	shall allocate or assignment	gn costs among all classes of cus	tomers of the public
30	utility.		
31	(2) In de	termining the rates for utility s	ervices and the cost
32	allocation among all o	f a public utility's classes of c	ustomers, the
33	commission shall:		
34		Consider the costs and expenses	
35		he utility services to customers	
36	(B)	Consider the economic impact of	the proposed rates and

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1
    charges for utility services by giving equal consideration to each class of
 2
    customers: and
 3
                       (C) Make findings that are based on substantial evidence.
 4
           (b) Notwithstanding the commission's authority to otherwise determine
 5
    and fix rates for all classes of customers, including allocating or assigning
 6
    costs and designing rates, if the commission finds that it will be beneficial
 7
    to economic development or the promotion of employment opportunities, and
8
    that it will result in just and reasonable rates for all classes of
9
     customers, the commission shall determine rates and charges for utility
10
    services that:
11
                 (1) For the class of customers with the highest level of
12
    consumption per customer which has rates that include a demand component, and
    any successors to such class, as they existed on January 1, 2015 January 1,
13
14
    2021, ensure that all costs and expenses related to demand and capacity are
15
     identified and allocated on a demand basis and recovered from customers in
16
    those classes through a demand rate component and not through a volumetric
17
    rate component unless the commission determines that the rates should be
18
    adjusted under subsections (e) and (f) of this section;
19
                (2) For the retail jurisdiction rate classes, ensure that:
20
                       (A) All electric utility production plant, production-
    related costs, nonfuel production-related costs, purchased capacity costs,
21
22
    and any energy costs incurred resulting from the electric utility's
23
    environmental compliance are classified as production demand costs; and
24
                       (B)(i) Production demand costs are allocated to each
25
    customer class pursuant to the average and excess method shown in Table 4-10B
26
    on page 51 of the 1992 National Association of Regulatory Utility
27
    Commissioners Electric Utility Cost Allocation Manual, as it existed on
28
    January 1, 2015 January 1, 2021, using the average of the four (4) monthly
    coincident peaks for the months of June, July, August, and September for each
29
    class for the coincident peak referenced in Table 4-10B of the manual 1992
30
    National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Electric Utility
31
32
    Cost Allocation Manual, as it existed on January 1, 2015 January 1, 2021, or
33
    any subsequent version of the manual National Association of Regulatory
    Utility Commissioners Electric Utility Cost Allocation Manual to the extent
34
35
    it produces an equivalent result.
36
                             (ii) Subdivision (b)(2)(B)(i) of this section does
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1
    not prescribe an allocation for a wind production plant; and
 2
                 (3)(A)(i) For purposes of allocation of natural gas distribution
    plant costs, including costs in distribution mains and related distribution
 3
 4
    plant expenses, among the state's retail jurisdiction rate classes, ensure
 5
    that each natural gas public utility classifies all natural gas distribution
 6
    plant costs as customer-related or capacity-related.
 7
                             (ii) For purposes of subdivision (b)(3)(A)(i) of
8
    this section, the natural gas distribution plant costs shall include:
9
                                   (a) Amounts charged to account numbers 374
10
    through 387, as defined under the account numbering system in the Uniform
11
    System of Accounts prescribed for natural gas public utilities by the rules
12
    of the commission; and
13
                                   (b) Related depreciation, return on
14
    investment, property insurance and taxes, excluding state and federal income
15
    taxes, and fixed operation and maintenance expense charged to account numbers
16
    870 through 894, as defined under the account numbering system in the Uniform
17
    System of Accounts prescribed for natural gas public utilities by the rules
18
    of the commission, including all labor-related costs for the expenses
    described in this subdivision (b)(3)(A).
19
                             (iii) To develop a cost allocation method under this
20
    section for natural gas utilities, the commission shall use the Cas
21
22
    Distribution Rate Design Manual, June 1989 edition, as prepared by the
    National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, as it existed on
23
    January 1, 2015 January 1, 2021, or any subsequent version of the manual Gas
24
    Distribution Rate Design Manual, to the extent it produces an equivalent
25
26
    result.
27
                       (B)(i) The customer-related natural gas distribution plant
28
    costs shall be allocated to each customer class based on the number of
29
    customers in each class.
30
                             (ii) The customer-related portion of natural gas
    distribution plant costs related to account numbers 374 through 376, as
31
32
    defined under the account numbering system in the Uniform System of Accounts
33
    prescribed for natural gas public utilities by the rules of the commission,
34
    shall be the percentage of the average cost of all mains that is represented
    by the average cost of the minimum size main and computed using a cost
35
36
    allocation method based upon the predominant size main that is installed by
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the natural gas public utility that is at least two inches (2") in diameter, 1 2 with the investment costs of the predominant size mains set as the minimum 3 size. 4 (iii) The customer-related portion of natural gas 5 distribution costs related to account numbers 377 through 387, as defined 6 under the account numbering system in the Uniform System of Accounts 7 prescribed for natural gas public utilities by the rules of the commission, 8 shall be computed using a study that reflects the investments required to 9 meter, regulate, and connect each class of customers to the natural gas 10 utility's system. 11 (iv) Any remaining natural gas distribution plant 12 costs shall be classified as capacity-related costs. 13 (C)(i) Except for natural gas distribution plant costs 14 related to account numbers 380 through 385, as defined under the account 15 numbering system in the Uniform System of Accounts prescribed for natural gas public utilities by the rules of the commission, the natural gas distribution 16 17 plant costs classified as capacity-related costs shall be allocated to the 18 customer classes based on the contribution to peak day demand that is made by 19 each customer class. (ii) As used in subdivision (b)(3)(C)(i) of this 20 section, "peak day demand" means the computed quantity of gas that would be 21 22 supplied to each customer class calculated using the coldest day in a recent 23 thirty-year period for each gas utility. (c) In an application for a general change or modification in a public 24 25 utility's rates and charges under this subchapter: 26 (1) A public utility may present evidence that demonstrates that 27 the implementation of rates under subsection (b) of this section will result 28 in rates that will be beneficial to economic development or the promotion of employment opportunities and result in just and reasonable rates for all 29 30 classes of customers; and 31 (2) A public utility shall present evidence of whether or not 32 rate design in subdivision (b)(1) of this section results in an increase to 33 the base rate charges that are billed to customers in the affected class of 34 more than ten percent (10%) as compared to the then currently approved base 35 rate charges of the applicable rate schedules. 36 (d)(1) Unless the commission adjusts the rates under subsection (e) or

1 subsection (f) of this section, the commission shall by order establish and 2 design rates, allocate or assign costs to all classes of customers, and regulate the rates for each class of customers of a public utility according 3 to this section except as limited under § 23-4-1205(c)(3)(B), § 23-4-1207(d) 4 and § 23-4-1208(a)(2)(B) and (C). 5 6 (2) For an electric utility whose class of customers with the 7 highest level of consumption per customer that has rates that include a demand component, and any successors to such a class, as they existed on 8 9 January 1, 2021, has an annual usage for the class as a whole in excess of seven million megawatt hours (7,000,000 MWh), and if the electric utility has 10 11 a formula rate review approved and in effect under § 23-4-1208(a)(1) on or 12 before March 15, 2021: 13 (A) The commission shall determine rates and charges for utility services in accord with § 23-4-422(b)(1) and (2) without regard to 14 15 any findings described in § 23-4-422; and 16 (B) The commission shall not adjust the rates under 17 subsection (e) or subsection (f) of this section, except as provided in § 23-4-1207(d) and § 23-4-1208(a)(2)(B) and (C). 18 19 (e) Pursuant to the commission's authority to otherwise determine and fix rates for all classes of customers, including allocating or assigning 20 costs and designing rates, the commission may adjust rates under subdivisions 21 22 (b)(2) and (3) of this section if the commission finds: 23 (1) It is in the public interest; (2) It is necessary to produce just and reasonable rates; or 24 25 (3) Implementation of rates under subdivisions (b)(2) and (3) of 26 this section will result in rates that are not beneficial to economic 27 development or the promotion of employment opportunities. 28 (f) If implementation of rates under subdivision (b)(1) of this section will result in an increase in the base rate charges billed to 29 30 customers in the affected class of more than ten percent (10%) as compared to 31 the currently approved base rate charges of the applicable rate schedules, 32 the commission may adjust the rates to ensure that the greatest increase in 33 the base rate charges billed to customers in the affected class is ten 34 percent (10%) as compared to the then currently approved base rate charges of 35 the applicable rate schedules. 36 (g) If the commission makes any adjustment under subsections (e) and

1 (f) of this section, the commission shall provide in an order the rationale 2 for determining that rates under subsection (b) of this section may not be 3 just and reasonable and the rationale for determining that the rates adjusted 4 in the order of the commission are just and reasonable and in the public 5 interest. The commission shall make its findings based on substantial 6 evidence. 7 (h) An electric cooperative corporation established under the Electric 8 Cooperative Corporation Act, § 23-18-301 et seq., is not subject to this 9 section. (i) Effective March 27, 2015, the cost allocation provisions of this 10 11 section shall apply to any pending application for a change in general rates 12 and charges. 13 14 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 23-4-1205(c)(3), concerning the procedure 15 for a rate change under the Formula Rate Review Act, is amended to read as 16 follows: 17 (3)(A) The rates that are approved in the application for a 18 general change in rates and charges shall remain in effect during the formula 19 rate review term under § 23-4-1208, subject to the rate adjustments under 20 this subchapter. 21 (B) As part of an extension of the initial five-year term of a formula rate review under § 23-4-1207(d) and § 23-4-1208(a)(3), for an 22 electric utility if the electric utility's class of customers with the 23 highest level of consumption per customer that has rates that include a 24 demand component, any successors to such a class, as they existed on January 25 26 1, 2021, has an annual usage for the class as a whole in excess of seven million megawatt hours (7,000,000 MWh), the commission shall approve changes 27 to the rate design within an individual customer class consistent with § 23-28 4-422(b)(1). 29 30 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 23-4-1206 is amended to read as follows: 31 32 23-4-1206. Formula rate review - Required information. 33 (a) A formula rate review mechanism approved by the Arkansas Public 34 Service Commission shall specify the minimum information required with each 35 annual rate review filing. 36 (b) Annual formula rate review filings under an approved formula rate

1	review mechanism shall be developed using the formula rate review test period
2	designated by the public utility under § 23-4-1205(a)(2).
3	(c)(1) Annual formula rate review filings shall be prepared consistent
4	with the commission's <u>Arkansas Public Service Commission's</u> order on the
5	public utility's application for a general change in rates and charges.
6	(2) In the case of a formula rate review test period that uses a
7	test period based on a projected year, an electing public utility may
8	support, in its discretion, any portion of that projected data through the
9	use of information that relies on historical averages.
10	(d) Any costs disallowed by the commission Arkansas Public Service
11	Commission in its order on the public utility's application for a general
12	change in rates and charges shall not be eligible for recovery under a
13	formula rate review mechanism.
14	(e)(1) If a formula rate review test period utilizes projected data
15	under § 23-4-406 or a projected year, rate changes under § 23-4-1207 shall
16	include an adjustment to net any differences between the prior formula rate
17	review test period change in revenue and the actual historical year change in
18	revenue for that same year.
19	(2) A public utility shall report any differences between the
20	prior formula rate review test period change in revenue and the historical
21	year change in revenue for the same year.
22	(3) Netting shall not begin until a public utility has
23	accumulated a full twelve (12) months of a historical year to prepare a
24	report.
25	$(4)(\Lambda)$ When calculating the adjustment to net any differences
26	under subdivision (e)(1) of this section, the Arkansas Public Service
27	Commission shall include the actual historical year change in revenue for a
28	historical year, which shall be determined as follows:
29	(i) For the purpose of including all of the elements
30	of the change of revenue in calculating an adjustment to net any differences
31	under subdivision (e)(1) of this section, the Arkansas Public Service
32	Commission shall ensure that the revenue received for the historical year
33	shall be composed of:
34	(a) Prior formula rate review test period
35	changes in revenue;
36	(b) Netting revenue from a prior formula rate

1	review test period; and
2	(c) In order to isolate the change in revenue
3	for the corresponding prior projected year being netted, prior projected year
4	revenue for the year being netted; and
5	(ii) The Arkansas Public Service Commission shall
6	calculate an adjustment to net any differences under subdivision (e)(1) of
7	this section by calculating the differences between the prior formula rate
8	review test period changes in revenue and the prior projected year revenue
9	for the year being netted.
10	(B) If the prior formula rate review test period change in
11	revenue being netted was limited by § 23-4-1207(d)(2), the Arkansas Public
12	Service Commission shall ensure that the revenue recovered shall be either:
13	(i) Applied first to any revenue amounts remaining
14	from the prior approved formula rate review test periods specified in
15	subdivision (e)(4)(A) of this section, second to the netting adjustment
16	specified in subdivision (e)(4)(A) of this section, and last to the prior
17	projected year revenue for the year being netted specified in subdivision
18	(e)(4)(A) of this section; or
19	(ii) Proportioned by:
20	(a) Calculating the sum of:
21	(1) The revenue adjustment amount
22	determined under § 23-4-1207(b); and
23	(2) The netting adjustment determined
24	under subdivision (e)(2) of this section and this subdivision (e)(4);
25	(b) Galculating the percentage of the sum
26	represented by:
27	(1) The revenue adjustment amount
28	determined under § 23-4-1207(b); and
29	(2) The netting adjustment determined
30	under subdivision (e)(2) of this section and this subdivision (e)(4); and
31	(c) Applying the percentages calculated in
32	subdivision (e)(4)(B)(ii)(b) of this section to the actual historical year
33	change in revenue for that same year.
34	(C)(i) For the initial term of a formula rate review
35	mechanism approved and in effect on or before March 15, 2021, a public
36	utility may choose to apply either subdivision (e)(4)(B)(i) or subdivision

1	(e)(4)(B)(11) of this section for the term of an approved formula rate review
2	approved under § 23-4-1208(a)(1).
3	(ii) The Arkansas Public Service Commission shall
4	authorize the public utility to use the chosen methodology.
5	(iii) Except as provided in subdivisions (e)(4)(D)
6	and (E) of this section, the authorized methodology shall remain in effect.
7	(D) During the final year of the initial five-year term of
8	any formula rate review mechanism approved and in effect before March 15,
9	2021, that uses a test period based upon a projected year, the public utility
10	shall follow subdivision (e)(4)(B)(ii) of this section.
11	(E)(i) During any five-year extension term of a formula
12	rate review mechanism that uses a test period based upon a projected year,
13	the public utility shall propose, and the Arkansas Public Service Commission
14	shall authorize, a public utility to follow subdivision (e)(4)(B)(ii) of this
15	section for the five-year extension of the term of the formula rate review
16	mechanism.
17	(ii) For any formula rate review mechanism that uses
18	a test period based upon a projected year and has an initial term that
19	commences after January 1, 2021, the public utility shall follow subdivision
20	(e)(4)(B)(ii) of this section for the initial five-year term of the formula
21	rate review mechanism.
22	(f) The public utility shall submit documentation fully supporting all
23	calculations and adjustments as required by the rules of the commission
24	Arkansas Public Service Commission.
25	(g)(1) A Except as provided in subdivision $(g)(2)$ of this section and
26	\S 23-4-1208(a)(4) and (5), a public utility or any other party to the
27	proceeding subject to the commission's $\underline{\text{Arkansas Public Service Commission's}}$
28	rules and procedures may propose additional adjustments that are based on
29	factors unique to the public utility.
30	(2) The Arkansas Public Service Commission shall not approve any
31	adjustments or changes to the formula rate review filings that are
32	inconsistent with the findings in the Arkansas Public Service Commission's
33	order on the public utility's application for a general change in rates or
34	charges, including:
35	(Λ) The rates that are approved in the application for a
36	general change in rates and charges shall remain in effect during the formula

1	rate review term consistent with § 23-4-1205(c)(3)(B); and
2	(B) The Arkansas Public Service Commission shall not
3	approve any adjustments or changes to the formula rate review filings that
4	are inconsistent with the findings in the Arkansas Public Service
5	Commission's order on the public utility's application for a general change
6	in rates or charges, including:
7	(i) A review of all of the components of a public
8	utility's books and records, including the balance sheet and income statement
9	accounts as were included in the findings in the Arkansas Public Service
10	Commission's order on the public utility's application for a general change
11	in rates or charges, and shall continue to treat those items in a manner
12	consistent with the findings in the Arkansas Public Service Commission's
13	order on the public utility's most recent application for a general change in
14	rates or charges; and
15	(ii) The public utility has designated the public
16	utility's formula rate review test period as based on a projected year under
17	§ 23-4-1205(a)(2) shall be allowed to recover its allowance for funds used
18	during construction and is determined according to the uniform system of
19	accounts adopted by the Arkansas Public Service Commission, and any
20	applicable accounting guidance issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory
21	Commission, and conforms with generally accepted accounting principles,
22	through rates.
23	
24	SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 23-4-1207(d), concerning the formula for
25	adjustments under the Formula Rate Review Act, is amended to read as follows:
26	$(d)(1)(\Lambda)$ The total change in the formula rate review mechanism
27	revenue level shall be allocated to each applicable rate schedule based on an
28	equal percentage of the base rate revenue used in the development of rates in
29	the Arkansas Public Service Commission's order addressing the public
30	utility's last application for a general change in rates and charges.
31	(B) As part of an extension of the five-year term of a
32	formula rate review under § 23-4-1208(a)(3), for an electric utility if the
33	electric utility's class of customers with the highest level of consumption
34	per customer that has rates that include a demand component, and any
35	successors to such a class, as they existed on January 1, 2021, has an annual
36	usage for the class as a whole in excess of seven million megawatt hours

1	(/,000,000 MWh), the commission shall adjust the cost allocation, with
2	respect to the total change in the formula rate review mechanism revenue
3	level under subdivision $(d)(1)(\Lambda)$ of this section, to each applicable rate
4	schedule consistent with § 23-4-422(b)(2) and § 23-4-422(d)(2) and using the
5	public utility's most recent cost of service that was submitted under the
6	terms of the public utility's formula rate review mechanism.
7	(C) The public utility shall file the resulting rate
8	schedules as part of any formula rate review compliance filing.
9	(2) The total amount of a revenue increase or decrease for each
10	rate class shall not exceed four percent (4%) of each rate class's total
11	revenue for the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the formula rate review
12	test period.
13	
14	SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 23-4-1208 is amended to read as follows:
15	23-4-1208. Term - Formula rate review.
16	(a)(1) The term of any formula rate review approved by the Arkansas
17	Public Service Commission shall not exceed five (5) years from the date of
18	the commission's final order on the application by the public utility for a
19	general change in rates and charges.
20	(2)(A)(i) Upon a determination that it is in the public
21	interest, a public utility may request and the commission may extend the term
22	of the formula rate review mechanism by a period of no more than five (5)
23	years beyond the initial term.
24	(ii) For an electric utility if the electric
25	utility's class of customers with the highest level of consumption per
26	customer that has rates that include a demand component, and any successors
27	to such a class, as they existed on January 1, 2021, has an annual usage for
28	the class as a whole in excess of seven million megawatt hours (7,000,000
29	<u>MWh) :</u>
30	(a) An electric utility may request, and the
31	commission shall approve, an extension of the term of the formula rate review
32	mechanism by a period of five (5) years beyond the initial five-year term,
33	provided the request is made on or before March 15, 2021; and
34	(b) Any requests for an extension of the
35	initial term of a formula rate plan mechanism made after March 15, 2021,
36	shall be subject to subdivision (a)(2)(A)(i) of this section.

1	(b) As part of any extension of the initial term of a
2	formula rate review, for an electric utility if the electric utility's class
3	of customers with the highest level of consumption per customer that has
4	rates that include a demand component, and any successors to such a class, as
5	they existed on January 1, 2021, has an annual usage for the class as a whole
6	in excess of seven million megawatt hours (7,000,000 MWh), the commission
7	shall adjust the cost allocation of any adjustment with respect to the total
8	change in the formula rate review mechanism revenue level under § 23-4-
9	1207(d) to each applicable rate schedule consistent with § 23-4-422(b)(2) and
10	§ 23-4-422(d)(2) using the public utility's most recent cost of service that
11	was submitted under the terms of the public utility's formula rate review
12	mechanism, and the public utility shall file with the commission the
13	resulting rate schedules as part of any formula rate review compliance
14	<u>filing.</u>
15	(C) As part of any extension of the initial term of a
16	formula rate review mechanism, for an electric utility if the electric
17	utility's class of customers with the highest level of consumption per
18	customer that has rates that include a demand component, and any successors
19	to such a class, as they existed on January 1, 2021, has an annual usage for
20	the class as a whole in excess of seven million megawatt hours (7,000,000
21	MWh), the commission shall approve changes to the rate design within an
22	individual customer class under § 23-4-1205(c)(3)(B) and subject to § 23-4-
23	422(b)(1) using the public utility's most recent cost of service that was
24	submitted under the terms of the public utility formula rate review
25	mechanism, and the public utility shall file with the commission the
26	resulting rate schedules as part of any formula rate review compliance
27	<u>filing.</u>
28	(3) During the five-year term of an extension of any formula
29	rate review mechanism with an initial five-year term approved before March
30	15, 2021, for an electric utility if the electric utility's class of
31	customers with the highest level of consumption per customer that has rates
32	that include a demand component, and any successors to such a class, as they
33	existed on January 1, 2021, has an annual usage for the class as a whole in
34	excess of seven million megawatt hours (7,000,000 MWh):
35	(A)(i) If the commission as part of its order in the
36	public utility's most recent application for a general change in rates and

1	<u>charges under § 23-4-401 et seq. adjusted the cost allocation to each</u>
2	applicable rate schedule under the then-applicable provisions of § 23-4-422,
3	then the commission shall:
4	(a) Use a public utility's most recent cost of
5	service that was submitted under the terms of the public utility's formula
6	<pre>rate review mechanism;</pre>
7	(b) Adjust the revenues recoverable from each
8	class of customers to implement the unadjusted cost allocation in an equal
9	annual adjustment over the five-year term of an extension; and
10	(c) This subdivision (a)(3)(A) shall be used
11	to adjust the amounts under § 23-4-1207(d)(1).
12	(ii) The commission shall not make any other
13	adjustments to the amounts under § 23-4-1207(d);
14	(B) For a public utility's class of customers with the
15	highest level of consumption per customer that has rates with a demand
16	eomponent, any decrease in the costs allocated to that class of customers
17	under subdivision (a)(3)(A) of this section shall serve to lower the maximum
18	amount of the revenue increase for that class under § 23-4-1207(d)(2);
19	(C) For a public utility's classes of customers other than
20	the class of customers with the highest level of consumption per customer
21	that has rates with a demand component, any increase in the costs allocated
22	to those classes of customers as well as any amounts that lower the maximum
23	revenue increase for any class of customers under subdivision (a)(3)(B) of
24	this section shall be included in the adjustment of customer rates for those
25	classes of customers subject to § 23-4-1207(d)(2);
26	(D) For a public utility's nonresidential classes of
27	customers that have rates with a demand component other than the class of
28	customers with the highest level of consumption per customer that has rates
29	with a demand component, the public utility may establish and the commission
30	shall approve a maximum level of consumption or demand to be eligible for
31	service as part of those classes that is lower than the minimum level of
32	consumption or demand to be eligible for the class of customers with the
33	highest level of consumption per customer that has rates with a demand
34	component; and
35	(E) If the commission as part of its order in the public
36	utility's most recent application for a general change in rates and charges

I	under § 23-4-401 et seq. adjusted the rate design for the class of customers
2	with the highest level of consumption per customer that has rates with a
3	demand component under the then-applicable provisions of § 23-4-422, then:
4	(i) The commission shall approve changes to the rate
5	design within an individual customer class under § 23-4-1205(c)(3)(B) subject
6	to § 23-4-422(b)(1) using the utility's most recent cost of service that was
7	submitted under the terms of its formula rate review mechanism;
8	(ii) The commission shall modify the rate design
9	changes required under § 23-4-422(b)(1), § 23-4-1205(c)(3)(B), and this
10	subdivision (a)(3), as described in this subdivision (a)(3)(E); and
11	(iii) The commission shall adjust the rate design to
12	the class of customers with the highest level of consumption per customer,
13	which has rates with a demand component in an equal annual adjustment over
14	the first three (3) years of the five-year term of an extension, and the
15	public utility shall file the resulting rate schedules annually as part of
16	any formula rate review compliance filing until the adjustment in this
17	subdivision (a)(3)(E)(iii) is fully implemented.
18	(4) During the five-year term of an extension, for an electric
19	public utility with a formula rate review mechanism that uses a test period
20	based on a projected year with an initial five-year term and that was
21	approved and in effect by the commission before March 15, 2021, for an
22	electric utility if the electric utility's class of customers with the
23	highest level of consumption per customer that has rates that include a
24	demand component, and any successors to such a class, as they existed on
25	January 1, 2021, has an annual usage for the class as a whole in excess of
26	seven million megawatt hours (7,000,000 MWh):
27	(A) The debt-to-equity ratio, for the purpose of setting
28	rates, shall be fixed at a public utility's actual debt-to-equity ratio
29	reflected in the commission order issued on December 11, 2020, addressing the
30	annual formula rate review filing during the final year of the initial five-
31	year term;
32	(B) If the commission imputes a level of short-term debt
33	for ratemaking purposes, the amount, stated as a percentage, shall not exceed
34	the amount included in the capital structure reflected in the commission
35	order issued on December 11, 2020, addressing the annual formula rate review
36	filing during the final year of the initial five-year term;

1	(C) The target rate of return in effect during the initial
2	five-year term of the formula rate review mechanism shall continue to be in
3	effect for the five-year term of an extension;
4	(D) All other capital structure components, for the
5	purpose of setting rates as well as all other components of a public
6	utility's books and records, including the balance sheet and income statement
7	accounts, shall be determined consistent with § 23-4-1206(g); and
8	(E) If the commission imputes any amount for any
9	liabilities that are reflected in the capital structure for ratemaking
10	purposes, it shall not include any amount stated as a percentage that exceeds
11	the amount stated as a percentage included in the capital structure reflected
12	in the commission order issued on December 11, 2020, addressing the annual
13	formula rate review filing during the final year of the initial five-year
14	term.
15	(5) During the five-year term of an extension, for an electric
16	public utility with a formula rate review mechanism that uses a test period
17	based on a projected year with an initial five-year term and that was
18	approved and in effect by the commission before March 15, 2021, for an
19	electric utility if the electric utility's class of customers with the
20	highest level of consumption per customer that has rates that include a
21	demand component, and any successors to such a class, as they existed on
22	January 1, 2021, has an annual usage for the class as a whole in excess of
23	seven million megawatt hours (7,000,000 MWh), to the extent practicable, the
24	public utility shall do the following with respect to providing support for
25	its annual formula rate review evaluation reports during the five-year term
26	of the extension:
27	(A)(i) The public utility shall support the purpose for
28	and level of its projected year investments or expenses with those
29	projections based primarily upon historical averages and making specific
30	adjustments to those amounts instead of basing those projections primarily on
31	the public utility's corporate budget.
32	(ii) The public utility shall use its four year
33	average historical plant balances for enumerated blanket funding projects
34	associated with capital investment that are mandated by law or regulation.
35	customer-driven, or necessary to maintain the reliability of the electric
36	grid as the baseline for the investments going forward, and to complete this.

1	the public utility may categorize investments according to the public
2	utility's primary objective, including mandated work, preapproved projects,
3	storm work, and reliability work instead of using the public utility's
4	corporate budget to determine the amount included in the projected year.
5	(iii) For any projects that fall outside the
6	recurring enumerated categories that are based on the historical averaging,
7	the public utility shall separately identify, to the extent practicable, each
8	project and support the project as a specific adjustment to the projected
9	year amounts, similar to the presentation of an adjustment made during an
10	application for a general change or modification in rates and charges, and to
11	eomplete this, the public utility may determine that projects should be
12	grouped together when the projects contain a combination of proposed
13	investments associated with both baseline reliability and load stability
14	projects, such as pole line and circuit inspection programs, and other
15	reliability efforts that the public utility plans to undertake in the
16	projected year;
17	(B) The public utility shall use the four-year historical
18	averages described in subdivision (a)(5)(A)(ii) of this section, except that:
19	(i) The public utility shall adjust the historical
20	averages upward or downward for specific capital projects and anticipated
21	cost increases or decreases that the utility reasonably expects are likely to
22	$\underline{\text{occur within the projected year and for which the utility provides } \text{additional}}$
23	support consistent with other filing support thresholds that the commission
24	applied to the utility's formula rate review mechanism during its initial
25	five-year term; and
26	(ii) Expenses related to capital investments that
27	the utility has already explained shall not require separate support,
28	including depreciation and property taxes;
29	(C)(i) The support for the projected year, described in
30	subdivisions (a)(5)(A) and (B) of this section, shall be applied to the
31	$\underline{\text{transmission and generation functional areas to the extent deemed practicable}}$
32	by the public utility.
33	(ii) If not practicable, the public utility shall
34	use reasonable efforts to establish a similar framework to present capital
35	investment;
36	(D) The public utility shall use reasonable efforts to

T	develop a similar methodology as described in subdivision (a)(4) of this
2	section and this subdivision (a)(5) for projected year expenses; and
3	(E) Not less than forty-five (45) days before the public
4	utility's annual evaluation report filing:
5	(i) The public utility shall make available to the
6	other eligible parties in the formula rate review proceeding information
7	regarding the public utility's construction projects and purchases that
8	elosed to plant during the historical year; and
9	(ii) To the extent reasonably practicable, the
10	public utility shall provide an overview of its planned distribution projects
11	describing the public utility's projected year planned distribution
12	unadjusted investment and expenses.
13	(6) Subdivisions (a)(4) and (5) of this section are subject to
14	the applicable accounting and tax requirements, including the normalization
15	rules of the Internal Revenue Service as in effect on January 1, 2021, and
16	generally acceptable accounting principles.
17	(3)(7) The rate review mechanism shall continue until all
18	historical years have been netted under § 23-4-1206(e)(1) and rates have been
19	adjusted under § 23-4-1207(c).
20	(b)(1) A formula rate review shall continue until a final order is
21	issued on an application for a general change in rates and charges filed by a
22	public utility or an application for a change in general rates and charges
23	filed by the public utility as ordered by the commission. The rate review
24	<pre>mechanism shall continue until all historical years have been netted under §</pre>
25	23-4-1206(e)(1) and rates have been adjusted under § 23-4-1207(e).
26	(2)(A) A public utility may file an application for a change in
27	rates and charges under § 23-4-401 et seq. at any time during an extension of
28	the term of a formula rate review mechanism.
29	(B) If the public utility does not file an application for
30	a change in general rates and charges under § 23-4-401 et seq. under
31	subdivision (b)(2)(Λ) of this section before the final year of an extension
32	term, the public utility shall do so during the final year of the extension
33	of the term of a formula rate review mechanism.
34	(3) In any application for a change in general rates and charges
35	filed during or at the conclusion of the initial term or any extension of the
36	term of a formula rate review mechanism that uses a test period based upon a

1	projected year:
2	(A) A public utility's prior designation of a formula rate
3	review test period based upon a projected year under § 23-4-1205(a)(2) shall
4	not affect the public utility's right to designate a test period to justify
5	new rates under § 23-4-406;
6	(B) A public utility's formula rate review test period
7	based upon a projected year under § 23-4-1205(a)(2) may include, at the
8	public utility's discretion, all or part of the same historical periods or
9	projected periods as those included in a test period to justify new rates
10	under § 23-4-406; and
11	(C) An application described in this subdivision (b)(3)
12	shall not limit subdivision (b)(1) of this section.
13	
14	SECTION 6. DO NOT CODIFY. Retroactivity. This act applies to any
15	formula rate review approved and in effect under the Formula Rate Review Act,
16	§ 23-4-1201 et seq., on or before March 15, 2021.
17	
18	SECTION 7. DO NOT CODIFY. Applicability. This act applies to any
19	formula rate review approved and in effect under the Formula Rate Review Act,
20	§ 23-4-1201 et seq., on or before March 15, 2021.
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22	SECTION 8. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
23	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that investments by public
24	utilities that provide utility service in Arkansas are required to provide
25	reliable service at reasonable rates, but the costs that drive public utility
26	rates are changing; that public utilities need to have procedures that permit
27	the rates to change in response to those changing conditions that affect
28	costs and address the allocation of costs and design of rates; and that this
29	act is immediately necessary to maintain stable rates and to mitigate the
30	magnitude of future rate changes by public utilities by clarification of the
31	regulatory framework to ease the investment procedure for public utilities.
32	Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately
33	necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
34	become effective on:
35	(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
36	(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,

1	the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
2	<u>bill; or</u>
3	(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Covernor and the veto is
4	overriden, the date the last house overrides the veto.
5	
6	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 23-4-604 is amended to correct the
7	classification of a criminal offense pursuant to § $5-1-107(a)(2)$ and § $5-1-$
8	108(b) and to correct word usage to read as follows:
9	23-4-604. Railroads and express companies — Schedule of rates.
10	(a) In order to ascertain what the regular charge of those companies
11	are, all railroad and express companies doing business in this state are
12	required to keep in all their offices in this state a schedule of the regular
13	rates charged by them, which shall be open to the inspection of any person
14	interested therein.
15	(b) Any agent of any railroad or express company who fails or refuses
16	to show the schedule of rates of the company to any person interested therein
17	and allow him or her to examine the schedule of rates as provided in
18	subsection (a) of this section shall be deemed <u>is</u> guilty of a misdemeanor
19	<u>violation</u> and upon conviction shall be fined in any sum not less than one
20	hundred dollars ($\$100$) nor more than five hundred dollars ($\$500$).
21	
22	SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 23-4-605 is amended to correct the
23	classification of a criminal offense pursuant to $\S 5-1-107(a)(2)$ and $\S 5-1-107(a)(2)$
24	108(b) and to correct word usage to read as follows:
25	23-4-605. Railroads and express companies — Overcharging prohibited.
26	(a) All agents of railroad and express companies doing business in
27	this state are prohibited from charging, collecting, or receiving pay for any
28	goods, wares, packages, merchandise, or any article whatever that may be sent
29	or received by or through their respective offices in excess of the regular
30	rates charged for those articles.

31 (b) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this 32 section shall be deemed is guilty of a misdemeanor violation and upon 33 conviction shall be fined in any sum not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) 34 nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

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SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 23-10-429 is amended to correct the

- classification of a criminal offense pursuant to § 5-1-107(a)(2) and § 5-1-108(b) and to correct word usage to read as follows:
- 3 23-10-429. Employee demanding or receiving extra pay for furnishing 4 car to shipper - Penalty.
- 5 (a) Any railroad employee who demands or receives from any shipper
 6 extra pay over and above the legal freight rate for placing or furnishing
 7 cars for the shipment of freight shall be is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
 8 violation and upon conviction shall be fined in any sum not less than one
 9 hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200). Each car so
 10 placed or furnished shall be deemed is a separate offense under this section.
 - (b) Any shipper or other person who gives or offers to give any such extra pay to any such employee shall be is guilty of a misdemeanor violation and upon conviction shall be fined in any sum not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200).

classification of a criminal offense pursuant to § 5-1-107(a)(2) and § 5-1-

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 23-10-441 is amended to correct the

18 108(b) and to correct word usage to read as follows:

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23-10-441. Shipper's pass on shipments of livestock or poultry.

- (a) Whenever When any railroad company or corporation doing business within the limits of this state receives and ships any livestock or poultry by the carload, the company or corporation shall, in consideration of the price paid for the car, shall pass the shipper or his or her employee to and from the point designated in the contract or bill of lading without further expense to the shipper.
- (b) Any railroad company or corporation or officer, agent, or employee of any railroad company or corporation failing to comply with the provisions of this section shall be deemed is guilty of a misdemeanor violation and upon conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction shall be fined in any sum not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) for each offense.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 23-12-802 is amended to correct the classification of a criminal offense pursuant to § 5-1-107(a)(2) and § 5-1-108(b) and to correct word usage to read as follows:

36 23-12-802. Trespassers boarding trains.

Any person who shall board boards any passenger, freight, or other railway train, whether moving or standing still, for any purpose and without good faith intending to become a passenger thereon on the train and with no lawful business thereon on the train and with intent to obtain a free ride on the train, however short the distance, without the consent of the person or persons in charge thereof of the train shall be deemed is guilty of a misdemeanor violation. Upon conviction thereof under this section, that person shall be punished by a fine of not less than one dollar (\$1.00) nor more than ten dollars (\$10.00). However, no person shall be so arrested except at the request of an agent or employee of the railroad company.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 23-12-805 is amended to correct the classification of a criminal offense pursuant to § 5-1-107(a)(2) and § 5-1-108(b) and to correct word usage to read as follows:

23-12-805. Willful interference with railroads - Damages.

- (a) If any person shall willfully do or cause to be done willfully does or causes any act whatever, whereby any building, construction, or work of any railroad corporation in this state, or any engine, machine, structure, or any matter or thing appertaining to the railroad corporation shall be stopped, obstructed, injured, impaired, weakened, or destroyed, the persons person so offending shall be guilty of a misdemeanor violation and upon conviction shall forfeit and pay to the railroad corporation so injured, etc., treble the amount of damages sustained by means of such an offense.
- (b) All penalties imposed by this section may be sued for by the prosecuting attorney and in the name of the people of the State of Arkansas in any court of this state having competent jurisdiction.

 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code \S 23-12-807 is amended to clarify the classification of a criminal offense pursuant to \S 5-1-107(c)(1) and to correct word usage to read as follows:

23-12-807. Engineer or conductor intoxicated.

While If a person is intoxicated while in charge of a locomotive engine running upon any railroad in this state or while acting as the conductor of any cars on any railroad in this state, if any person shall be intoxicated, he or she shall be deemed is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and shall be punished accordingly.

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SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 23-17-106 is amended to clarify the classification of a criminal offense pursuant to § 5-1-107(c)(1) and to correct word usage to read as follows:

- 23-17-106. Priority of dispatch of messages Confidentiality.
- 6 (a)(1) In consideration of the right-of-way over the public property
 7 conceded in this section and §§ 23-17-101 23-17-105, 23-17-107, 23-17-108,
 8 and 23-17-113, every telephone corporation in the case of war, insurrection,
 9 or civil commotion of any kind and for the arrest of criminals shall give
 10 immediate dispatch at the usual rates of charge to any message connected
 11 therewith of any officer of the state or of the United States.
- 12 (2) Any officer or agent of a telephone company who fails or
 13 refuses to carry out the provisions of the preceding subsection subdivision
 14 (a)(1) of this section is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.
- 15 (b)(1) All other messages, including those received from other 16 telephone companies, shall be transmitted in order of their delivery, 17 correctly and without unreasonable delay, and shall be strictly confidential. 18 However, arrangements may be made with the publishers of newspapers for the 19 transmission of intelligence of general and public interest.
 - (2) Any officer or agent of a telephone company who willfully violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.
- 23 (3) The telephone company so violating this section is liable in damages to the party aggrieved.

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- SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 23-112-1004(d)(4), concerning the penalty for failure to make timely application for a license under the Recreational Vehicle Franchise Act, is amended at the request of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission to repeal language that is obsolete because the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission no longer licenses sales personnel to read as follows:
- 32 (4)(A)(i) A person, firm, or corporation required to be licensed 33 under this subchapter that fails to make application for the license at the 34 time required shall pay a penalty of fifty percent (50%) of the amount of the 35 license fee for each thirty (30) days of default, in addition to the fees 36 required to be paid under this subsection.

1	$\frac{(ii)(B)}{(B)}$ The penalty under subdivision $(d)(4)(A)\frac{(ii)}{(ii)}$ of this
2	section may be waived, in whole or in part, within the discretion of the
3	commission.
4	(B) A license application for sales personnel shall be
5	received in the commission office within thirty (30) days of employment.
6	
7	SECTION 11. DO NOT CODIFY. CONSTRUCTION AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT.
8	It is the intent of the General Assembly that:
9	(1) The enactment and adoption of this act shall not expressly
10	or impliedly repeal an act passed during the regular session of the Ninety-
11	Fourth General Assembly;
12	(2) To the extent that a conflict exists between an act of the
13	regular session of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly and this act:
14	(A) The act of the regular session of the Ninety-Fourth
15	General Assembly shall be treated as a subsequent act passed by the General
16	Assembly for the purposes of:
17	(i) Giving the act of the regular session of the
18	Ninety-Fourth General Assembly its full force and effect; and
19	(ii) Amending or repealing the appropriate parts of
20	the Arkansas Code of 1987; and
21	(B) Section 1-2-107 shall not apply; and
22	(3) This act shall make only technical, not substantive, changes
23	to the Arkansas Code of 1987.
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