
HOUSE BILL 1034

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Morris, Hudgins, Wallace, Moeller, Linville, B. Sullivan, Chase and Ormsby

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1 AN ACT Relating to paying utility bills electronically; adding a
2 new section to chapter 35.21 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 35.67
3 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 35.92 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 36.94 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 54.16 RCW; adding a
5 new section to chapter 57.08 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 80.28
6 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 80.36 RCW.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) When a city or town that provides electric, natural gas, water,
11 or sewer services to retail customers upgrades, changes, or purchases
12 new equipment related to billing or service, the new equipment must be
13 capable of accepting electronic payment of bills for service provided
14 by the city or town. Additional fees or costs charged to the customer
15 may not exceed the actual cost of providing an electronic payment
16 option.

17 (2) This section does not apply to a city or town that provides
18 electric, natural gas, water, or sewer services to less than five
19 thousand retail customer accounts.

1 (3) For the purposes of this section, "electronic payment" means an
2 internet-based method of payment that allows a customer, at the time of
3 payment, to access an internet web page and transmit text or data
4 controlling the amount of the payment, the date of the payment, and the
5 account from which the payment will be made.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.67 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) When a city or town that provides sewer services to retail
9 customers upgrades, changes, or purchases new equipment related to
10 billing or service, the new equipment must be capable of accepting
11 electronic payment of bills for service provided by the city or town.
12 Additional fees or costs charged to the customer may not exceed the
13 actual cost of providing an electronic payment option.

14 (2) This section does not apply to a city or town that provides
15 sewer services to less than five thousand retail customer accounts.

16 (3) For the purposes of this section, "electronic payment" means an
17 internet-based method of payment that allows a customer, at the time of
18 payment, to access an internet web page and transmit text or data
19 controlling the amount of the payment, the date of the payment, and the
20 account from which the payment will be made.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 35.92 RCW
22 to read as follows:

23 (1) When a city or town that provides electric, natural gas, water,
24 or sewer services to retail customers upgrades, changes, or purchases
25 new equipment related to billing or service, the new equipment must be
26 capable of accepting electronic payment of bills for service provided
27 by the city or town. Additional fees or costs charged to the customer
28 may not exceed the actual cost of providing an electronic payment
29 option.

30 (2) This section does not apply to a city or town that provides
31 electric, natural gas, water, or sewer services to less than five
32 thousand retail customer accounts.

33 (3) For the purposes of this section, "electronic payment" means an
34 internet-based method of payment that allows a customer, at the time of
35 payment, to access an internet web page and transmit text or data

1 controlling the amount of the payment, the date of the payment, and the
2 account from which the payment will be made.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 36.94 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) When a county that operates a sewerage or water system
6 upgrades, changes, or purchases new equipment related to billing or
7 service, the new equipment must be capable of accepting electronic
8 payment of bills for service provided by the county. Additional fees
9 or costs charged to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of
10 providing an electronic payment option.

11 (2) This section does not apply to a county that operates a
12 sewerage or water system with less than five thousand retail customer
13 accounts.

14 (3) For the purposes of this section, "electronic payment" means an
15 internet-based method of payment that allows a customer, at the time of
16 payment, to access an internet web page and transmit text or data
17 controlling the amount of the payment, the date of the payment, and the
18 account from which the payment will be made.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 54.16 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 (1) When a public utility district that provides electric, water,
22 or sewer services to retail customers upgrades, changes, or purchases
23 new equipment related to billing or service, the new equipment must be
24 capable of accepting electronic payment of bills for service provided
25 by the district. Additional fees or costs charged to the customer may
26 not exceed the actual cost of providing an electronic payment option.

27 (2) This section does not apply to a public utility district that
28 provides electric, water, or sewer services to less than five thousand
29 retail customer accounts.

30 (3) For the purposes of this section, "electronic payment" means an
31 internet-based method of payment that allows a customer, at the time of
32 payment, to access an internet web page and transmit text or data
33 controlling the amount of the payment, the date of the payment, and the
34 account from which the payment will be made.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 57.08 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) When a district that operates a sewer or water system upgrades,
4 changes, or purchases new equipment related to billing or service, the
5 new equipment must be capable of accepting electronic payment of bills
6 for service provided by the district. Additional fees or costs charged
7 to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of providing an
8 electronic payment option.

9 (2) This section does not apply to a district that operates a sewer
10 or water system with less than five thousand retail customer accounts.

11 (3) For the purposes of this section, "electronic payment" means an
12 internet-based method of payment that allows a customer, at the time of
13 payment, to access an internet web page and transmit text or data
14 controlling the amount of the payment, the date of the payment, and the
15 account from which the payment will be made.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 80.28 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) When a gas company, electric company, or water company that
19 provides gas, electric, or water services to retail customers upgrades,
20 changes, or purchases new equipment related to billing or service, the
21 new equipment must be capable of accepting electronic payment of bills
22 for service provided by the company. Additional fees or costs charged
23 to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of providing an
24 electronic payment option.

25 (2) This section does not apply to a gas company, electric company,
26 or water company that provides gas, electric, or water services to less
27 than five thousand retail customer accounts.

28 (3) For the purposes of this section, "electronic payment" means an
29 internet-based method of payment that allows a customer, at the time of
30 payment, to access an internet web page and transmit text or data
31 controlling the amount of the payment, the date of the payment, and the
32 account from which the payment will be made.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 80.36 RCW
34 to read as follows:

35 (1) When a telecommunications company that provides
36 telecommunications services to retail customers upgrades, changes, or

1 purchases new equipment related to billing or service, the new
2 equipment must be capable of accepting electronic payment of bills for
3 service provided by the company. Additional fees or costs charged to
4 the customer may not exceed the actual cost of providing an electronic
5 payment option.

6 (2) This section does not apply to a telecommunications company
7 that provides telecommunications services to less than five thousand
8 retail customer accounts.

9 (3) For the purposes of this section, "electronic payment" means an
10 internet-based method of payment that allows a customer, at the time of
11 payment, to access an internet web page and transmit text or data
12 controlling the amount of the payment, the date of the payment, and the
13 account from which the payment will be made.

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