
SENATE BILL 5892

State of Washington **55th Legislature** **1997 Regular Session**

By Senators Swanson, Snyder, Thibaudeau and Heavey

Read first time 02/18/97. Referred to Committee on Energy & Utilities.

1 AN ACT Relating to public utilities; adding a new section to
2 chapter 80.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that large-scale
5 downsizings, mergers, or work force reductions by public utility
6 suppliers, such as electric, natural gas, telecommunications, and water
7 companies can have a substantial impact in the quality of utility
8 service and may adversely impact the safety of workers and the public.
9 The legislature further finds that it is in the public interest for the
10 utilities and transportation commission to review and comment on these
11 potential impacts prior to major large-scale mergers or work force
12 reductions.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 80.04 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) A public service company is required to notify the commission
16 ninety days prior to a work force reduction, merger, or downsizing of
17 one hundred or more employees that occurs within a ninety-day period.
18 The company must submit documentation of the potential impact on

1 quality of service and worker and public safety resulting from the
2 proposed downsizing or merger. Within seventy days of notification,
3 the commission must review the potential impact of the work force
4 reduction on the quality of utility service provided to communities,
5 businesses, individuals, and state and local governments served by the
6 public service company, and hold a public meeting to allow consumer
7 comment. The commission will then notify the public service company
8 and interested parties of its findings. The results of the review may
9 be used by the commission in making a determination on any pending
10 acquisition or merger.

11 (2) For the purposes of this section, "public service company"
12 means, but is not limited to, electric companies, water systems,
13 resellers of service and holding companies, and telecommunications
14 companies classified as competitive companies subject to minimal
15 regulations.

--- END ---