
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1009

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications (originally sponsored by Representatives Morris, Upthegrove, Conway, Hudgins, Morrell, Kenney, P. Sullivan, B. Sullivan, Dunn, McCoy, Wallace and Chase)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/05.

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; adding a new section to chapter 80.36 RCW; and declaring an
7 emergency.

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

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

11 (1) By July 1, 2008, a city or town that provides electric, natural
12 gas, water, or sewer services to retail customers must offer an
13 electronic payment option that its customers may use for payment of
14 bills for service provided through the utility. Additional fees or
15 costs charged to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of
16 providing an electronic payment option.

17 (2) The requirement under this section to provide an electronic
18 payment option by July 1, 2008, does not apply to a city or town that

1 provides electric, natural gas, water, or sewer services to less than
2 five thousand retail customer accounts.

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

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

10 (1) By July 1, 2008, a city or town that provides sewer services to
11 retail customers must offer an electronic payment option that its
12 customers may use for payment of bills for service provided through the
13 utility. Additional fees or costs charged to the customer may not
14 exceed the actual cost of providing an electronic payment option.

15 (2) The requirement under this section to provide an electronic
16 payment option by July 1, 2008, does not apply to a city or town that
17 provides sewer services to less than five thousand retail customer
18 accounts.

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

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

26 (1) By July 1, 2008, a city or town that provides electric, natural
27 gas, water, or sewer services to retail customers must offer an
28 electronic payment option that its customers may use for payment of
29 bills for service provided through the utility. Additional fees or
30 costs charged to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of
31 providing an electronic payment option.

32 (2) The requirement under this section to provide an electronic
33 payment option by July 1, 2008, does not apply to a city or town that
34 provides electric, natural gas, water, or sewer services to less than
35 five thousand retail customer accounts.

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

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

8 (1) By July 1, 2008, a county that operates a sewerage or water
9 system must offer an electronic payment option that its retail
10 customers may use for payment of bills for service provided through the
11 utility. Additional fees or costs charged to the customer may not
12 exceed the actual cost of providing an electronic payment option.

13 (2) The requirement under this section to provide an electronic
14 payment option by July 1, 2008, does not apply to a county that
15 operates a sewerage or water system with less than five thousand retail
16 customer accounts.

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

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

24 (1) By July 1, 2008, a public utility district that provides
25 electric, water, or sewer services to retail customers must offer an
26 electronic payment option that its customers may use for payment of
27 bills for service provided through the district. Additional fees or
28 costs charged to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of
29 providing an electronic payment option.

30 (2) The requirement under this section to provide an electronic
31 payment option by July 1, 2008, does not apply to a public utility
32 district that provides electric, water, or sewer services to less than
33 five thousand retail customer accounts.

34 (3) For the purposes of this section, "electronic payment option"
35 means an internet-based method of payment that allows a customer, at

1 the time of payment, to access an internet web page and transmit text
2 or data controlling the amount of the payment, the date of payment, and
3 the account from which the payment will be made.

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

6 (1) By July 1, 2008, a district that operates a sewer or water
7 system must offer an electronic payment option that its retail
8 customers may use for payment of bills for service provided through the
9 district. Additional fees or costs charged to the customer may not
10 exceed the actual cost of providing an electronic payment option.

11 (2) The requirement under this section to provide an electronic
12 payment option by July 1, 2008, does not apply to a district that
13 operates a sewer or water system with less than five thousand retail
14 customer accounts.

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

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

22 (1) By July 1, 2008, a gas company, electrical company, or water
23 company that provides gas, electric, or water services to retail
24 customers must offer an electronic payment option that its retail
25 customers may use for payment of bills for service provided through the
26 company. Additional fees or costs charged to the customer may not
27 exceed the actual cost of providing an electronic payment option.

28 (2) The requirement under this section to provide an electronic
29 payment option by July 1, 2008, does not apply to a gas company,
30 electrical company, or water company that provides gas, electric, or
31 water services to less than five thousand retail customer accounts.

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

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

3 (1) By July 1, 2008, a telecommunications company that provides
4 telecommunications services to retail customers must offer an
5 electronic payment option that its retail customers may use for payment
6 of bills for service provided through the company. Additional fees or
7 costs charged to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of
8 providing an electronic payment option.

9 (2) The requirement under this section to provide an electronic
10 payment option by July 1, 2008, does not apply to a telecommunications
11 company that provides telecommunications services to less than five
12 thousand retail customer accounts.

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

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
20 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
21 immediately.

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