
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1034

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications (originally sponsored by Representatives Morris, Hudgins, Wallace, Moeller, Linville, B. Sullivan, Chase and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/07.

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 substantially upgrades or replaces their billing
12 system, the resulting system must be capable of accepting electronic
13 payment from residential customers. Additional fees or costs charged
14 to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of providing an
15 electronic payment option. The methodology related to electronic
16 payment shall not affect the terms and conditions of service.

17 (2) For the purposes of this section the following definitions
18 apply:

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

6 (b) "Substantially" means a redesign or upgrade of more than
7 twenty-five percent of the code or database structures of the billing
8 system.

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

11 (1) When a city or town that provides sewer services substantially
12 upgrades or replaces their billing system, the resulting system must be
13 capable of accepting electronic payment from residential customers.
14 Additional fees or costs charged to the customer may not exceed the
15 actual cost of providing an electronic payment option. The methodology
16 related to electronic payment shall not affect the terms and conditions
17 of service.

18 (2) For the purposes of this section the following definitions
19 apply:

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

25 (b) "Substantially" means a redesign or upgrade of more than
26 twenty-five percent of the code or database structures of the billing
27 system.

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

30 (1) When a city or town that provides electric, natural gas, water,
31 or sewer services substantially upgrades or replaces their billing
32 system, the resulting system must be capable of accepting electronic
33 payment from residential customers. Additional fees or costs charged
34 to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of providing an
35 electronic payment option. The methodology related to electronic
36 payment shall not affect the terms and conditions of service.

1 (2) For the purposes of this section the following definitions
2 apply:

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

8 (b) "Substantially" means a redesign or upgrade of more than
9 twenty-five percent of the code or database structures of the billing
10 system.

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

13 (1) When a county that operates sewer or water services
14 substantially upgrades or replaces their billing system, the resulting
15 system must be capable of accepting electronic payment from residential
16 customers. Additional fees or costs charged to the customer may not
17 exceed the actual cost of providing an electronic payment option. The
18 methodology related to electronic payment shall not affect the terms
19 and conditions of service.

20 (2) For the purposes of this section the following definitions
21 apply:

22 (a) "Electronic payment" means an internet-based method of payment
23 that allows a customer, at the time of payment, to access an internet
24 web page and transmit text or data controlling the amount of the
25 payment, the date of the payment, and the account from which the
26 payment will be made.

27 (b) "Substantially" means a redesign or upgrade of more than
28 twenty-five percent of the code or database structures of the billing
29 system.

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

32 (1) When a public utility district that provides electric, water,
33 or sewer services substantially upgrades or replaces their billing
34 system, the resulting system must be capable of accepting electronic
35 payment from residential customers. Additional fees or costs charged

1 to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of providing an
2 electronic payment option. The methodology related to electronic
3 payment shall not affect the terms and conditions of service.

4 (2) For the purposes of this section the following definitions
5 apply:

6 (a) "Electronic payment" means an internet-based method of payment
7 that allows a customer, at the time of payment, to access an internet
8 web page and transmit text or data controlling the amount of the
9 payment, the date of the payment, and the account from which the
10 payment will be made.

11 (b) "Substantially" means a redesign or upgrade of more than
12 twenty-five percent of the code or database structures of the billing
13 system.

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

16 (1) When a district that operates sewer or water services
17 substantially upgrades or replaces their billing system, the resulting
18 system must be capable of accepting electronic payment from residential
19 customers. Additional fees or costs charged to the customer may not
20 exceed the actual cost of providing an electronic payment option. The
21 methodology related to electronic payment shall not affect the terms
22 and conditions of service.

23 (2) For the purposes of this section the following definitions
24 apply:

25 (a) "Electronic payment" means an internet-based method of payment
26 that allows a customer, at the time of payment, to access an internet
27 web page and transmit text or data controlling the amount of the
28 payment, the date of the payment, and the account from which the
29 payment will be made.

30 (b) "Substantially" means a redesign or upgrade of more than
31 twenty-five percent of the code or database structures of the billing
32 system.

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

35 (1) When a gas company, electric company, or water company that
36 provides gas, electric, or water services substantially upgrades or

1 replaces their billing system, the resulting system must be capable of
2 accepting electronic payment from residential customers. Additional
3 fees or costs charged to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of
4 providing an electronic payment option. The methodology related to
5 electronic payment shall not affect the terms and conditions of
6 service.

7 (2) For the purposes of this section the following definitions
8 apply:

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

14 (b) "Substantially" means a redesign or upgrade of more than
15 twenty-five percent of the code or database structures of the billing
16 system.

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

19 (1) When a telecommunications company that provides
20 telecommunications services substantially upgrades or replaces their
21 billing system, the resulting system must be capable of accepting
22 electronic payment from residential customers. Additional fees or
23 costs charged to the customer may not exceed the actual cost of
24 providing an electronic payment option. The methodology related to
25 electronic payment shall not affect the terms and conditions of
26 service.

27 (2) For the purposes of this section the following definitions
28 apply:

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

34 (b) "Substantially" means a redesign or upgrade of more than
35 twenty-five percent of the code or database structures of the billing

1 system.

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