



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 469

LCO No. 5949



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT REQUIRING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND MINIMUM STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT LEVELS FOR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "electric distribution company", "telecommunications company",
3 "community antenna television company", "certificate of cable
4 franchise authority" and "certified competitive video service provider"
5 have the same meaning as provided in section 16-1 of the general
6 statutes.

7 (b) On or before July 1, 2019, the Public Utilities Regulatory
8 Authority shall initiate a docket to establish:

9 (1) Industry specific standards for acceptable performance by an
10 electric distribution company in an emergency. Such standards shall be
11 designed to protect public health and safety, ensure the reliability of
12 the electric distribution company's services, prevent service outages
13 and disruptions, minimize the number of service outages and

14 disruptions that do occur, reduce the duration of any such service
15 outages and disruptions and facilitate restoration of service after any
16 such service outages and disruptions. In establishing such standards,
17 the authority shall review for each electric distribution company that
18 operates in the state:

19 (A) The current practices concerning service restoration after an
20 emergency. Such review shall include, but not be limited to, an
21 analysis of each electric distribution company's (i) estimates
22 concerning potential damage and service outages prior to any
23 emergency, (ii) damage and service outage assessments after any
24 emergency, (iii) restoration management after any emergency,
25 including, but not limited to, access to alternate restoration resources
26 through regional and reciprocal aid contracts, (iv) plans for at-risk and
27 vulnerable customers, (v) policies concerning communication with
28 state and local officials and customers, including, but not limited to,
29 individual customer restoration estimates and the timeliness and
30 usefulness of such estimates, and (vi) need for mutual assistance
31 during any emergency.

32 (B) The adequacy of the electric distribution company's
33 infrastructure, facilities and equipment. Such review shall include, but
34 not be limited to, an analysis of whether such electric distribution
35 company (i) is following standard industry practice for the operation
36 and maintenance of such infrastructure, facilities and equipment, and
37 (ii) has access to adequate replacement equipment for such
38 infrastructure, facilities and equipment during the course of such
39 emergency.

40 (C) Any current policies and procedures for coordination efforts
41 between the electric distribution company and any
42 telecommunications company, community antenna television
43 company, holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority or certified
44 competitive video service provider, including, but not limited to,
45 coordinated planning before any emergency.

46 (D) Any other policy, practice or information that the authority
47 determines is relevant to the review of the electric distribution
48 company's ability to ensure the reliability of such electric distribution
49 company's services in an emergency and to prevent, minimize and
50 restore any service outages or disruptions that last for more than forty-
51 eight consecutive hours caused by such emergency.

52 (E) The staffing and equipment levels related to the restoration of
53 electric service after a service outage of the electric distribution
54 company from January 1, 1990, to the present, provided the authority
55 may review such levels for additional years. Such review shall include
56 a review of the number of line crew workers and shall distinguish
57 between (i) line crew workers directly employed by the electric
58 distribution company and working full time within the state, (ii) line
59 crew workers directly employed by the electric distribution company
60 working primarily in another state, and (iii) line crew workers hired as
61 contractors or subcontractors.

62 (2) Minimum staffing and equipment levels for each electric
63 distribution company that operates in the state, based on the number
64 of customers served by such electric distribution company and the
65 nature of the infrastructure deployed to serve such electric distribution
66 company's customers in an emergency in which more than ten per cent
67 of such electric distribution company's customers are without service
68 for more than forty-eight consecutive hours. Such staffing levels shall
69 include separate specific minimums for staff who (A) are directly
70 employed by the electric distribution company and working full time
71 within the state, provided such minimum shall not be less than ninety-
72 five per cent of the historic maximum level of such workers as
73 determined by the authority pursuant to subparagraph (E) of
74 subdivision (1) of this subsection, (B) are directly employed by the
75 electric distribution company but work primarily in another state, and
76 (C) are employed as contractors or subcontractors.

77 (c) Each electric distribution company operating in the state shall
78 provide the authority with any information the authority requests to

79 conduct the docket initiated pursuant to this section, provided any
80 such requests or disclosure of information does not violate any other
81 state or federal law.

82 (d) On or before January 1, 2020, the authority shall issue a final
83 decision in the docket initiated pursuant to subsection (b) of this
84 section. Such decision shall include a summary and any findings from
85 the authority's review of the items in subparagraphs (A) to (E),
86 inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section. The
87 authority shall submit such final decision, in accordance with the
88 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
89 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
90 relating to energy.

91 (e) The authority may from time to time, on its own motion, open a
92 docket to revise the minimum staffing and equipment levels
93 established pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section,
94 pursuant to the requirements of the general statutes and this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ET *Joint Favorable*