

2024 -- H 7138

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LC003371  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - REGULATORY POWERS OF  
ADMINISTRATION

Introduced By: Representatives J. Lombardi, Hull, Felix, Morales, Henries, Stewart,  
Alzate, and Cruz

Date Introduced: January 11, 2024

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 39-3 of the General Laws entitled "Regulatory Powers of  
2 Administration" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **39-3-45. Electric rates tied to the consumer price index.**

4 (a) Notwithstanding any provisions of the general laws to the contrary, any increase in rates  
5 proposed to be charged by an electric distribution company as defined in chapter 1 of this title, shall  
6 be no greater than five and one-half percent (5.5%) or the percentage increase in the Consumer  
7 Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) as published by the United States Department of  
8 Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics determined as of September 30 of the prior calendar year,  
9 whichever is greater, unless the increase shall have been previously approved by affirmative action  
10 of the general assembly.

11 (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any electric distribution company  
12 having fewer than seven thousand five hundred (7,500) electricity customer accounts.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would provide that any rate increase with respect to electric distribution companies  
2 would be no greater than the increase in the Consumer Price Index or five and one-half percent  
3 (5.5%), whichever is greater, unless there is approval of a higher rate by the general assembly.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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