

2024 -- S 2640

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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: Senators Lawson, DiMario, Bissailon, Ciccone, Cano, Euer, Gallo,  
Pearson, Felag, and Burke

Date Introduced: March 01, 2024

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 39-3-7.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-3 entitled "Regulatory  
2 Powers of Administration" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **39-3-7.1. Prohibited practices.**

4           The use of electrical "master-meters," so-called, in apartment or tenement houses, mobile  
5 home parks, or other similar residential complexes is permitted; ~~containing more than ten (10)~~  
6 ~~apartments or dwelling units is hereby prohibited;~~ provided, however, that whenever a master-  
7 meter customer provides electricity to users who are tenants of such a residential complex, the  
8 master-meter customer shall not charge the user tenants a rate in excess of the rate that would apply  
9 if such users received electricity directly from a public utility ~~this section shall only apply to~~  
10 ~~apartment houses, construction of which is commenced after July 1, 1977. Each apartment or~~  
11 ~~dwelling unit shall have a measuring device or meter for the purpose of measuring the electricity~~  
12 ~~used only by that apartment. The commission shall promulgate all necessary rules and regulations~~  
13 ~~to carry out the purposes and provisions of this section; provided, however, that this section shall~~  
14 ~~not apply to the multifamily dwellings constructed for the exclusive use of persons who are elderly~~  
15 ~~and/or disabled through public financing, whenever the organization sponsoring the construction~~  
16 ~~shall elect to use a single meter for all, or designated portions, of the housing.~~

1 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 prohibit charging any rate in excess of the rate that would apply if a tenant  
2 of any residential complex with electrical master-meters received electricity directly from a public  
3 utility. This act would further amend the law in that its application would be for all residential  
4 tenants, regardless of the size of the complex or the age or disability of its residents.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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