

2021 -- H 5440

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND
CARRIERS

Introduced By: Representatives Fogarty, Carson, Cortvriend, Donovan, Ajello, Kazarian,
Hull, Abney, and Amore

Date Introduced: February 10, 2021

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 39-2 of the General Laws entitled "Duties of Utilities and Carriers"

2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **39-2-26. Reliable and high quality utility service.**

4 (a) Every electric transmission company and electric distribution company as defined in §
5 39-1-2 shall promulgate and implement written guidelines and procedures for periodic inspection
6 of each category of its equipment. Electric transmission and distribution companies shall establish
7 inspection procedures for at least the following categories of equipment: meters, transformers,
8 switching and protective devices, regulators and capacitors, overhead and underground cables and
9 conductors, and wooden and other poles which carry cables, electrical conductors and apparatus.

10 (b) Every electric distribution and electric transmission company shall provide the public
11 utilities division with a periodic summary report on the status of each category of equipment
12 inspected. The division shall have the authority to require such additional inspections or surveys as
13 it deems appropriate, and to review and approve the inspection plans of transmission and
14 distribution companies. The public utilities division shall adopt final regulations regarding adoption
15 and implementation of periodic inspection and maintenance programs by transmission and
16 distribution companies including, but not limited to, inspection standards for the equipment
17 categories listed in subsection (a) of this section, no later than one hundred eighty (180) days after
18 enactment of this section.

1 (c) No later than one year after enactment of this section, the public utilities division shall
2 complete a report on rates of outages, and service disruptions experienced by customers of
3 transmission and distribution companies. The report shall identify those communities or areas
4 within any company's territory that suffer above average rates of outages and service disruptions,
5 and shall include comparisons of the rates among the several companies. For purposes of this
6 section, "community or area" shall mean an area no greater than the size of a United States postal
7 zone.

8 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 require electric transmission and electric distribution companies to conduct
2 periodic equipment inspections. Such companies would also be required to submit a periodic report
3 to the public utilities division regarding the status of such inspections.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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