

## HB475 INTRODUCED



1 HB475

2 RBEJRYN-1

3 By Representatives Butler, Harrison, Myrex, Gidley, Mooney,  
4 Whorton, Stringer, DuBose, Yarbrough

5 RFD: Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure

6 First Read: 19-Feb-26



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4     SYNOPSIS:

5                 This bill would require the Public Service  
6     Commission to hold meetings at least annually regarding  
7     the regulation of utilities and other topics within the  
8     commission's powers and duties.

9                 This bill would require notice of the meetings  
10    in compliance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

11                This bill would provide for the impeachment of  
12    commissioners if a meeting is not held or notice of the  
13    meeting is not provided.

14                This bill would also prohibit an electric  
15    utility from including costs incurred by the utility  
16    and related to giving grants, lobbying, or advertising  
17    for the utility from being included in the  
18    determination of a schedule for rates or service  
19    regulations.

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23                A BILL

24                TO BE ENTITLED

25                AN ACT

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27                Relating to utilities; to add Sections 37-1-32.1 and  
28    37-1-81.1 to the Code of Alabama 1975; to require the Public

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29 Service Commission to hold annual meetings; to require notice  
30 of the meetings; to authorize the impeachment of members of  
31 the commission for failure to hold meetings or provide notice;  
32 and to prohibit utilities from including certain costs in the  
33 calculation or determination of rates or service regulations.

34 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

35         Section 1. Sections 37-1-32.1 and 37-1-81.1 are added  
36 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

37             §37-1-32.1

38             (a) Consistent with its duties and responsibilities  
39 under this chapter, at least annually, the commission, through  
40 its staff, shall convene a public meeting with utility  
41 representatives to provide information to the commission, its  
42 staff, and the public on rates, cost trends, reliability,  
43 resilience, general infrastructure investment plans,  
44 competitiveness with peer states, economic development  
45 impacts, and other regulatory issues the commission deems  
46 relevant. These meetings shall be conducted in a manner that  
47 facilitates public participation and provides a review of key  
48 issues that the commission believes will be helpful to the  
49 public in understanding issues that impact services under the  
50 commission's jurisdiction.

51             (b) The commission, through its staff, shall provide  
52 notice of each meeting to the public in compliance with the  
53 Alabama Open Meetings Act, Section 36-25A-3.

54             (c) If the commission fails to convene a meeting  
55 required by subsection (a) or the commission fails to provide  
56 notice required by subsection (b), the failure shall



57 constitute a willful neglect of duty and shall subject each  
58 commissioner to impeachment pursuant to Section 36-11-1.

59           **§37-1-81.1**

60           (a) A utility that provides retail electricity service  
61 may not factor the following costs into the calculation or  
62 determination of a new rate or service regulation or a change  
63 to an existing rate or service regulation charged to customers  
64 of the utility:

65           (1) Costs incurred due to the utility providing funding  
66 or grants to other persons or organizations.

67           (2) Costs incurred due to the hiring of persons for the  
68 purpose of lobbying the Legislature or any other political  
69 office or subdivision of the state.

70           (3) Costs incurred due to advertisement of the utility.

71           (b) (1) When an electric utility files a new schedule to  
72 put in operation a new rate or service regulation or to change  
73 an existing rate or service regulation, the utility shall  
74 affirm that the utility has not included the prohibited costs  
75 under subsection (a) in the calculation or determination of  
76 the rate or service regulation.

77           (2) If the electric utility fails to make the  
78 affirmation, the rate or service regulation shall be void.

79           (c) If the commission discovers that a utility has  
80 included the prohibited cost under subsection (a) in the  
81 calculation or determination of rates or service regulations,  
82 the commission shall investigate the determination pursuant to  
83 Section 37-1-83 and other powers of investigation granted to  
84 the commission pursuant to this division.



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85                   Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
86                   1, 2026.