

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



SYNOPSIS:

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

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

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

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

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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



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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

§37-1-32.1

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

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

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



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

§37-1-81.1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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