



94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2005 and 2006

HB4537

Introduced 1/11/2006, by Rep. Patrick J Verschoore

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

220 ILCS 5/8-505.2 new
220 ILCS 5/16-125

Amends the Public Utilities Act. Requires each electric utility to submit to the Illinois Commerce Commission a non-emergency vegetation management schedule for the utility's service areas that is no more than 4 years in duration and that ensures that trees in all parts of the utility's service areas are trimmed at least once every 4 years. Requires the Commission to post the schedule on its web site. Requires each electric utility to submit an annual report to the Commission indicating the percentage of the utility's vegetation management schedule that has been completed along with an affidavit from a representative of the utility that lists the number and nature of all complaints for the previous calendar year related to the ANSI A300 standards. Requires compensation for affected customers if more than 0.8% of the electric utility's total customers (now, more than 30,000 of the electric utility's customers) are subject to (i) a continuous interruption of power lasting 4 hours or more that results in the transmission of power at less than 50% of the standard voltage or that results in the total loss of power transmission or (ii) a power surge or other fluctuation that causes damage. Provides that the Illinois Commerce Commission shall require certain electric utilities or alternative retail electric suppliers to submit certain data concerning non-supervisory employees. Requires Commission rules to set forth (i) standards for inspecting, maintaining, and repairing certain electric generation facilities and electric transmission or distribution facilities and (ii) safety and reliability standards for certain electric generation facilities and electric transmission and distribution facilities. Deletes a provision that certain requirements apply only to an electric public utility having 1,000,000 or more customers.

LRB094 17290 MKM 52583 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Public Utilities Act is amended by adding
5 Section 8-505.2 and by changing Section 16-125 as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 5/8-505.2 new)

7 Sec. 8-505.2. Non-emergency vegetation management;
8 schedules; filings; annual reporting requirements.

9 (a) Each electric utility shall submit to the Commission a
10 vegetation management schedule for the utility's service
11 areas. The schedule shall include the utility's non-emergency
12 trimming schedule and shall be no more than 4 years in
13 duration. The schedule must ensure that trees in all parts of
14 the electric utility's service areas are trimmed at least once
15 every 4 years. Within 30 days after the utility submits the
16 schedule to the Commission, the Commission shall post the
17 schedule on the Commission's web site on a separate page
18 reserved exclusively for utility vegetation management
19 schedules.

20 (b) Each electric utility must submit an annual report to
21 the Commission indicating what percentage of the utility's
22 vegetation management schedule has been completed. Upon
23 submitting the annual report, a representative of the utility
24 shall sign and file with the Commission an affidavit that lists
25 the number and nature of all complaints for the previous
26 calendar year related to the ANSI A300 standards.

27 (220 ILCS 5/16-125)

28 Sec. 16-125. Transmission and distribution reliability
29 requirements.

30 (a) To assure the reliable delivery of electricity to all
31 customers in this State and the effective implementation of the

1 provisions of this Article, the Commission shall, within 180
2 days of the effective date of this Article, adopt rules and
3 regulations for assessing and assuring the reliability of the
4 transmission and distribution systems and facilities that are
5 under the Commission's jurisdiction.

6 (b) These rules and regulations shall require each electric
7 utility or alternative retail electric supplier owning,
8 controlling, or operating transmission and distribution
9 facilities and equipment subject to the Commission's
10 jurisdiction, referred to in this Section as "jurisdictional
11 entities", to adopt and implement procedures for restoring
12 transmission and distribution services to customers after
13 transmission or distribution outages on a nondiscriminatory
14 basis without regard to whether a customer has chosen the
15 electric utility, an affiliate of the electric utility, or
16 another entity as its provider of electric power and energy.
17 These rules and regulations shall also, at a minimum,
18 specifically require each jurisdictional entity to submit
19 annually to the Commission.

20 (1) the number and duration of planned and unplanned
21 outages during the prior year and their impacts on
22 customers;

23 (2) outages that were controllable and outages that
24 were exacerbated in scope or duration by the condition of
25 facilities, equipment or premises or by the actions or
26 inactions of operating personnel or agents;

27 (3) customer service interruptions that were due
28 solely to the actions or inactions of an alternative retail
29 electric supplier or a public utility in supplying power or
30 energy;

31 (4) a detailed report of the age, current condition,
32 reliability and performance of the jurisdictional entity's
33 existing transmission and distribution facilities, which
34 shall include, without limitation, the following data:

35 (i) a summary of the jurisdictional entity's
36 outages and voltage variances reportable under the

1 Commission's rules;

2 (ii) the jurisdictional entity's expenditures for
3 transmission construction and maintenance, the ratio
4 of those expenditures to the jurisdictional entity's
5 transmission investment, and the average remaining
6 depreciation lives of the entity's transmission
7 facilities, expressed as a percentage of total
8 depreciation lives;

9 (iii) the jurisdictional entity's expenditures for
10 distribution construction and maintenance, the ratio
11 of those expenditures to the jurisdictional entity's
12 distribution investment, and the average remaining
13 depreciation lives of the entity's distribution
14 facilities, expressed as a percentage of total
15 depreciation lives;

16 (iv) a customer satisfaction survey covering,
17 among other areas identified in Commission rules,
18 reliability, customer service, and understandability
19 of the jurisdictional entity's services and prices;
20 and

21 (v) the corresponding information, in the same
22 format, for the previous 3 years, if available;

23 (5) a plan for future investment and reliability
24 improvements for the jurisdictional entity's transmission
25 and distribution facilities that will ensure continued
26 reliable delivery of energy to customers and provide the
27 delivery reliability needed for fair and open competition;
28 ~~and~~

29 (6) a report of the jurisdictional entity's
30 implementation of its plan filed pursuant to subparagraph
31 (5) for the previous reporting period; ~~and~~

32 (7) the number of non-supervisory employees by
33 classification or job title working at each calendar year's
34 end at each headquarter, service area, reporting point, or
35 plant and if the total number of non-supervisory employees
36 is 1% or greater less than the preceding year's report and

1 a detailed explanation showing reasons for the decrease in
2 employees and the effect on safety and reliability.

3 (c) The Commission rules shall set forth:

4 (1) The ~~the~~ criteria that will be used to assess each
5 jurisdictional entity's annual report and evaluate its
6 reliability performance. Such criteria must take into
7 account, at a minimum: the items required to be reported in
8 subsection (b); the relevant characteristics of the area
9 served; the age and condition of the system's equipment and
10 facilities; good engineering practices; the costs of
11 potential actions; and the benefits of avoiding the risks
12 of service disruption.

13 (2) Standards for inspecting, maintaining, and
14 repairing each of the following:

15 (i) Electric generation facilities in Illinois
16 that are owned by public utilities or provide service
17 to public utilities under contracts with terms of 2
18 years or more.

19 (ii) Electric transmission or distribution
20 facilities in this State that are owned by public
21 utilities.

22 (3) Standards that the Commission determines are
23 necessary for the safe and reliable operation of each of
24 the following:

25 (i) Electric generation facilities in the State
26 that are owned by public utilities or provide service
27 to public utilities under contracts with terms of 2
28 years or more.

29 (ii) Electric transmission or distribution
30 facilities in this State that are owned by public
31 utilities.

32 (d) At least every 3 years, beginning in the year the
33 Commission issues the rules required by subsection (a) or the
34 following year if the rules are issued after June 1, the
35 Commission shall assess the annual report of each
36 jurisdictional entity and evaluate its reliability

1 performance. The Commission's evaluation shall include
2 specific identification of, and recommendations concerning,
3 any potential reliability problems that it has identified as a
4 result of its evaluation.

5 (e) In the event that more than 0.8% of the total ~~30,000~~
6 customers of an electric utility are subjected to a continuous
7 power interruption of 4 hours or more that results in the
8 transmission of power at less than 50% of the standard voltage,
9 or that results in the total loss of power transmission, the
10 utility shall be responsible for compensating customers
11 affected by that interruption for 4 hours or more for all
12 actual damages, which shall not include consequential damages,
13 suffered as a result of the power interruption. The utility
14 shall also reimburse the affected municipality, county, or
15 other unit of local government in which the power interruption
16 has taken place for all emergency and contingency expenses
17 incurred by the unit of local government as a result of the
18 interruption. A waiver of the requirements of this subsection
19 may be granted by the Commission in instances in which the
20 utility can show that the power interruption was a result of
21 any one or more of the following causes:

22 (1) Unpreventable damage due to weather events or
23 conditions.

24 (2) Customer tampering.

25 (3) Unpreventable damage due to civil or international
26 unrest or animals.

27 (4) Damage to utility equipment or other actions by a
28 party other than the utility, its employees, agents, or
29 contractors.

30 Loss of revenue and expenses incurred in complying with this
31 subsection may not be recovered from ratepayers.

32 (f) In the event of a power surge or other fluctuation that
33 causes damage and affects more than 0.8% of the total ~~30,000~~
34 customers of an electric utility, the electric utility shall
35 pay to affected customers the replacement value of all goods
36 damaged as a result of the power surge or other fluctuation

1 unless the utility can show that the power surge or other
2 fluctuation was due to one or more of the following causes:

3 (1) Unpreventable damage due to weather events or
4 conditions.

5 (2) Customer tampering.

6 (3) Unpreventable damage due to civil or international
7 unrest or animals.

8 (4) Damage to utility equipment or other actions by a
9 party other than the utility, its employees, agents, or
10 contractors.

11 Loss of revenue and expenses incurred in complying with this
12 subsection may not be recovered from ratepayers. Customers with
13 respect to whom a waiver has been granted by the Commission
14 pursuant to subparagraphs (1)-(4) of subsections (e) and (f)
15 shall not count toward the 0.8% of the total ~~30,000~~ customers
16 required therein.

17 (g) Whenever an electric utility must perform planned or
18 routine maintenance or repairs on its equipment that will
19 result in transmission of power at less than 50% of the
20 standard voltage, loss of power, or power fluctuation (as
21 defined in subsection (f)), the utility shall make reasonable
22 efforts to notify potentially affected customers no less than
23 24 hours in advance of performance of the repairs or
24 maintenance.

25 (h) Remedies provided for under this Section may be sought
26 exclusively through the Illinois Commerce Commission as
27 provided under Section 10-109 of this Act. Damages awarded
28 under this Section for a power interruption shall be limited to
29 actual damages, which shall not include consequential damages,
30 and litigation costs. Damage awards may not be paid out of
31 utility rate funds.

32 (i) The provisions of this Section shall not in any way
33 diminish or replace other civil or administrative remedies
34 available to a customer or a class of customers.

35 (j) The Commission shall by rule require an electric
36 utility to maintain service records detailing information on

1 each instance of transmission of power at less than 50% of the
2 standard voltage, loss of power, or power fluctuation (as
3 defined in subsection (f)), that affects 10 or more customers.
4 Occurrences that are momentary shall not be required to be
5 recorded or reported. The service record shall include, for
6 each occurrence, the following information:

7 (1) The date.

8 (2) The time of occurrence.

9 (3) The duration of the incident.

10 (4) The number of customers affected.

11 (5) A description of the cause.

12 (6) The geographic area affected.

13 (7) The specific equipment involved in the fluctuation
14 or interruption.

15 (8) A description of measures taken to restore service.

16 (9) A description of measures taken to remedy the cause
17 of the power interruption or fluctuation.

18 (10) A description of measures taken to prevent future
19 occurrence.

20 (11) The amount of remuneration, if any, paid to
21 affected customers.

22 (12) A statement of whether the fixed charge was waived
23 for affected customers.

24 Copies of the records containing this information shall be
25 available for public inspection at the utility's offices, and
26 copies thereof may be obtained upon payment of a fee not
27 exceeding the reasonable cost of reproduction. A copy of each
28 record shall be filed with the Commission and shall be
29 available for public inspection. Copies of the records may be
30 obtained upon payment of a fee not exceeding the reasonable
31 cost of reproduction.

32 (k) (Blank). ~~The requirements of subsections (c) through~~
33 ~~(j) of this Section shall apply only to an electric public~~
34 ~~utility having 1,000,000 or more customers.~~

35 (Source: P.A. 90-561, eff. 12-16-97.)