



Rep. Carolyn H. Krause

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09500HB2973ham001

LRB095 06413 MJR 34708 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2973

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 2973 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Public Utilities Act is amended by adding  
5 Section 16-131 as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 5/16-131 new)

7 Sec. 16-131. Commission consumer education program for  
8 energy conservation.

9 (a) The Commission shall implement and maintain a consumer  
10 education program for energy conservation to provide  
11 residential and small commercial retail customers with  
12 information to help them understand their options concerning  
13 energy conservation.

14 (b) The Commission shall form a working group following the  
15 enactment of this amendatory Act of the 95th General Assembly.  
16 This group shall consist of 5 representatives of the

1 investor-owned electric utilities in this State, 2 of which  
2 shall be appointed by electric utilities serving over 1,000,000  
3 retail customers in this State; 2 representatives of  
4 alternative retail electric suppliers; 3 representatives of  
5 organizations representing the interests of residential and  
6 small commercial retail customers; and the Commission.

7 (c) By January 1, 2008, educational materials for small  
8 commercial customers and residential customers, the working  
9 group appointed pursuant to this Section shall develop a  
10 package of printed educational materials which meet the  
11 requirements of subsection (d) and shall submit such package to  
12 the Commission for approval, along with recommendations for  
13 implementing this consumer education program for energy  
14 conservation. Such materials shall consider the needs of  
15 different types of consumers in this State, such as elderly,  
16 low-income, multilingual, minority, rural and disabled  
17 customers. The working group shall issue recommendations to the  
18 Commission on how such education program can be implemented  
19 through a variety of communication methods, including  
20 specifically mass media, distribution of printed material,  
21 public service announcements, and posting on the Internet.

22 (d) At a minimum, the materials constituting the consumer  
23 education program submitted to the Commission by the working  
24 group shall include concise explanations or descriptions of the  
25 following:

26 (1) information about how customers may conserve

1       energy and

2           (2) additional information available from the  
3       Commission upon request.

4       (e) Within 45 days following the submission required of the  
5       working group by subsection (d) of this Section, the Commission  
6       shall approve or disapprove the educational materials and  
7       recommendations for program implementation. The Commission  
8       shall be deemed to have approved the educational program  
9       materials and recommendations unless the Commission  
10       disapproves of any such material or recommendation within 45  
11       days following the date of receipt.

12       (f) Once approved by the Commission, materials comprising  
13       the consumer education program contemplated by this Section  
14       shall be distributed as follows:

15           (1) Electric utilities shall mail printed educational  
16       materials specified by the working group and approved by  
17       the Commission (a) to all residential and small commercial  
18       retail customers within a reasonable period as determined  
19       by the Commission; and (b) to all new residential and small  
20       commercial retail customers at the time that such customers  
21       begin taking services from the electric utility.

22           (2) Both electric utilities and alternative retail  
23       electric suppliers shall provide such materials at no  
24       charge to residential and small commercial retail  
25       customers upon request.

26       (g) The costs of printing educational materials approved by

1 the Commission pursuant to this Section shall be payable solely  
2 from funding as provided in this subsection (g). Each year the  
3 General Assembly shall appropriate money to the Commission from  
4 the General Revenue Fund for the expenses of the Commission  
5 associated with this Section. The cost of the consumer  
6 education program for energy conservation contemplated by this  
7 Section shall not exceed the amount of such appropriation. In  
8 no event shall any electric utility, alternative retail  
9 electric supplier or customer be liable for the costs of  
10 printing consumer education program material in accordance  
11 with this Section. The obligations associated with this  
12 consumer education program shall not exceed the amounts  
13 appropriated for this program pursuant to this Section.

14 (i) The Commission shall study the effectiveness of the  
15 consumer education program for energy conservation. Such study  
16 shall include a notice and an opportunity for participation and  
17 comment by all interested and potentially affected parties.  
18 Such study shall be completed by June 30th of each year and a  
19 summary thereof, together with any legislative  
20 recommendations, shall be included in the Commission's Annual  
21 Report due in accordance with Section 4-304 of this Act.

22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
23 becoming law."