

## Sen. Bill Cunningham

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## Filed: 4/21/2021

## 10200SB1605sam001

LRB102 14743 SPS 25497 a

- AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1605

  AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 1605 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the following:

  "Section 5. The Public Utilities Act is amended by changing Section 16-122 as follows:

  (220 ILCS 5/16-122)
  Sec. 16-122. Customer information.

  (a) Upon the request of a retail customer, or a person who
  - (a) Upon the request of a retail customer, or a person who presents verifiable authorization and is acting as the customer's agent, and payment of a reasonable fee, electric utilities shall provide to the customer or its authorized agent the customer's billing and usage data.
  - (b) Upon request from any alternative retail electric supplier and payment of a reasonable fee, an electric utility serving retail customers in its service area shall make available generic information concerning the usage, load shape

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curve or other general characteristics of customers by rate classification. Provided however, no customer specific billing, usage or load shape data shall be provided under this subsection unless authorization to provide such information is provided by the customer pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section.

Notwithstanding the requirements of this Section or subsection (d) of Section 16-108.6, if an alternative retail electric supplier warrants to an electric utility serving more than 500,000 retail customers that the alternative retail electric supplier's customer has provided consent as described in subsection (e) of Section 2EE of the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, then until either the customer contacts the alternative retail electric supplier to opt out or the customer is no longer served by the alternative retail electric supplier:

(1) An electric utility serving more than 500,000 retail customers shall electronically transmit interval meter usage data at the end of each monthly billing period for each residential retail customer for which the alternative retail electric supplier is providing electric power and energy supply service, for which the alternative retail electric supplier has requested such information, and for which the electric utility meters the residential customer using automated metering infrastructure equipment. Such data transmission shall occur no later

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than one business day after the electric utility serving more than 500,000 retail customers validates the interval meter usage data with the monthly billing period for such residential retail customer through an electronic data interchange or secure interface. The interval meter usage data shall be provided at a minimum on an hourly basis, or on a 30-minute or 15-minute basis, if available. In addition, the electric utility shall, not later than the following day, provide unverified interval data through an electronic data interchange or secure interface for which the alternative retail electric supplier has requested such information. The same processes shall apply for non-residential retail customers.

- (2) An electric utility serving more than 500,000 retail customers shall submit tariffs to the Commission for approval within 120 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly, if necessary, to meet the minimum requirements of paragraph (1) of this subsection (b).
- (3) Nothing prohibits the Commission on its own motion or upon petition by any party, after notice and hearing, to order such electric utility serving more than 500,000 retail customers to provide interval meter usage data on a shorter interval basis more rapidly after collection by the electric utility or make other changes if such changes exceed the minimum requirements of paragraph (1) of this

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subsection (b). Nothing in this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly prohibits such utility from time to time proposing new tariffs pursuant to Article IX of this Act to the extent such tariffs are consistent with the requirements of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly. Nothing in this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly shall require such electric utility to alter its tariffs or practices to the extent that they: (i) provide interval data with shorter intervals; (ii) provide interval data more frequently than monthly; or (iii) provide other enhancements beyond the minimum standards required by paragraph (1) of this subsection (b).

(4) An alternative retail electric supplier shall use such interval meter usage data for the development, marketing, and provision of current and future products and services to enable such customers to more easily and effectively manage their energy consumption, including, but not limited to, time-of-use pricing, demand response, energy efficiency or management, vehicle electrification, on-site or community generation, or any other electricity-related products or services or as otherwise authorized by the Commission.

(5) An alternative retail electric supplier and its affiliates and contracted third parties shall be prohibited from selling such information to a third party

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2	infor	rmatio	n to a	a th	ird	party	to	the	exte	ent	not	othe	rwise
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- (6) Nothing shall prohibit an electric utility serving more than 500,000 retail customers from utilizing interval meter usage data for the development or marketing of time-of-use development or marketing of time-of-use supply rates and programs approved by the Commission.
- 9 (c) Upon request from a unit of local government and 10 payment of a reasonable fee, an electric utility shall make 11 available information concerning the usage, load shape curves, 12 and other characteristics of customers by customer 13 classification and location within the boundaries of the unit 14 of local government, however, no customer specific billing, 15 usage, or load shape data shall be provided under this 16 subsection unless authorization to provide that information is 17 provided by the customer.
- (d) All such customer information shall be made available
  in a timely fashion in an electronic format, if available.
- 20 (Source: P.A. 92-585, eff. 6-26-02.)
- Section 10. The Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business
  Practices Act is amended by changing Section 2EE as follows:
- 23 (815 ILCS 505/2EE)
- Sec. 2EE. Alternative retail electric supplier selection.

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- (a) An alternative retail electric supplier shall not submit or execute a change in a consumer's selection of a provider of electric service unless and until:
  - (i) the alternative retail electric supplier first discloses all material terms and conditions of the offer to the consumer;
  - (ii) if the consumer is a small commercial retail customer as that term is defined in subsection (c) of this Section or a residential consumer, the alternative retail electric supplier discloses the utility electric supply price to compare, which shall be the sum of the electric supply charge and the transmission services charge, and shall not include the purchased electricity adjustment, applicable at the time the offer is made to the consumer;
  - (iii) if the consumer is a small commercial retail customer as that term is defined in subsection (c) of this Section or a residential consumer, the alternative retail electric provider discloses the following statement:

alternative retail "(Name of the electric supplier) is not the same entity as your electric delivery company. You are not required to enroll with (name of alternative retail electric supplier). As of (effective date), the electric supply price to compare is currently (price in cents per kilowatt hour). The electric utility electric supply price will expire on (expiration date). The utility electric supply price

1	to compare does not include the purchased electricity
2	adjustment factor. For more information go to the
3	Illinois Commerce Commission's free website at
4	www.pluginillinois.org.".
5	If applicable, the statement shall include the
6	following statement:
7	"The purchased electricity adjustment factor may
8	range between +.5 cents and5 cents per kilowatt
9	hour.";
10	(iv) the alternative retail electric supplier has
11	obtained the consumer's express agreement to accept the
12	offer after the disclosure of all material terms and
13	conditions of the offer; and
14	(v) the alternative retail electric supplier has
15	confirmed the request for a change in accordance with one
16	of the following procedures:
17	(A) The new alternative retail electric supplier
18	has obtained the consumer's written or electronically
19	signed authorization in a form that meets the
20	following requirements:
21	(1) An alternative retail electric supplier
22	shall obtain any necessary written or
23	electronically signed authorization from a
24	consumer for a change in electric service by using
25	a letter of agency as specified in this Section.

Any letter of agency that does not conform with

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this Section is invalid.

- (2) The letter of agency shall be a separate document (an easily separable document containing only the authorization language described in subparagraph (5)) whose sole purpose is authorize an electric service provider change. The letter of agency must be signed and dated by the consumer requesting the electric service provider change.
- (3) The letter of agency shall not be combined with inducements of any kind on the same document.
- (4) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2), the letter of agency may be combined with checks that contain only the required letter of agency language prescribed in subparagraph (5) and the necessary information to make the check negotiable instrument. The letter of agency check shall not contain any promotional language or material. The letter of agency check shall contain in easily readable, bold-face type on the face of the check, a notice that the consumer authorizing an electric service provider change by signing the check. The letter of agency language also shall be placed near the signature line on the back of the check.
  - (5) At a minimum, the letter of agency must be

1	printed with a print of sufficient size to be
2	clearly legible, and must contain clear and
3	unambiguous language that confirms:
4	(i) The consumer's billing name and
5	address;
6	(ii) The decision to change the electric
7	service provider from the current provider to
8	the prospective provider;
9	(iii) The terms, conditions, and nature of
10	the service to be provided to the consumer
11	must be clearly and conspicuously disclosed,
12	in writing, and an alternative retail electric
13	supplier must directly establish the rates for
14	the service contracted for by the consumer;
15	and
16	(iv) That the consumer understand that any
17	alternative retail electric supplier selection
18	the consumer chooses may involve a charge to
19	the consumer for changing the consumer's
20	electric service provider.
21	(6) Letters of agency shall not suggest or
22	require that a consumer take some action in order
23	to retain the consumer's current electric service
24	provider.
25	(7) If any portion of a letter of agency is
26	translated into another language, then all

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portions of the letter of agency must be translated into that language.

> (B) An appropriately qualified independent third party has obtained, in accordance with the procedures set forth in this subsection (b), the consumer's oral authorization to change electric suppliers that confirms and includes appropriate verification data. The independent third party (i) must not be owned, managed, controlled, or directed by the supplier or the supplier's marketing agent; (ii) must not have any financial incentive to confirm supplier change requests for the supplier or the supplier's marketing agent; and (iii) must operate in a location physically separate from the supplier or the supplier's marketing agent.

> Automated third-party verification systems and 3-way conference calls may be used for verification purposes so long as the other requirements of this subsection (b) are satisfied.

> A supplier or supplier's sales representative initiating a 3-way conference call or a call through an automated verification system must drop off the call once the 3-way connection has been established.

> All third-party verification methods shall elicit, at a minimum, the following information: (i) the identity of the consumer; (ii) confirmation that the

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person on the call is the account holder, has been specifically and explicitly authorized by the account holder, or possesses lawful authority to make the supplier change; (iii) confirmation that the person on the call wants to make the supplier change; (iv) the names of the suppliers affected by the change; (v) the service address of the supply to be switched; and (vi) the price of the service to be supplied and the material terms and conditions of the service being offered, including whether any early termination fees apply. Third-party verifiers may not market the supplier's services by providing additional information, including information regarding procedures to block or otherwise freeze an account against further changes.

All third-party verifications shall be conducted in the same language that was used in the underlying sales transaction and shall be recorded in their entirety. Submitting suppliers shall maintain and preserve audio records of verification of subscriber authorization for a minimum period of 2 years after obtaining the verification. Automated systems must provide consumers with an option to speak with a live person at any time during the call. Each disclosure made during the third-party verification must be made individually to obtain clear acknowledgment of each

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disclosure. The alternative retail electric supplier must be in a location where he or she cannot hear the customer while the third-party verification conducted. The alternative retail electric supplier shall not contact the customer after the third-party verification for a period of 24 hours unless the customer initiates the contact.

- (C) When a consumer initiates the call to the prospective alternative retail electric supplier, in order to enroll the consumer as a customer, the prospective alternative retail electric supplier must, with the consent of the customer, make a date-stamped, time-stamped audio recording that elicits, at a minimum, the following information:
  - (1) the identity of the customer;
  - (2) confirmation that the person on the call is authorized to make the supplier change;
  - (3) confirmation that the person on the call wants to make the supplier change;
  - (4) the names of the suppliers affected by the change;
  - (5) the service address of the supply to be switched; and
  - (6) the price of the service to be supplied and the material terms and conditions of the service being offered, including whether any early

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1 termination fees apply.

Submitting suppliers shall maintain and preserve the audio records containing the information set forth above for a minimum period of 2 years.

(b)(1) An alternative retail electric supplier shall not utilize the name of a public utility in any manner that is deceptive or misleading, including, but not limited to implying or otherwise leading a consumer to believe that an alternative retail electric supplier is soliciting on behalf of or is an agent of a utility. An alternative retail electric supplier shall not utilize the name, or any other identifying insignia, graphics, or wording that has been used at any time to represent a public utility company or its services, to identify, label, or define any of its electric power and energy service offers. An alternative retail electric supplier may state the name of a public electric utility in order to accurately describe the electric utility service territories in which the supplier is currently offering an electric power and energy service. An alternative retail electric supplier that is the affiliate of an Illinois public utility and that was doing business in Illinois providing alternative retail electric service on January 1, 2016 may continue to use that public utility's name, logo, identifying insignia, graphics, or wording in its business operations occurring outside the service territory of the public utility with which it is affiliated.

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- (2) An alternative retail electric supplier shall not state or otherwise imply that the alternative retail electric supplier is employed by, representing, endorsed by, or acting on behalf of a utility or utility program, a consumer group or consumer group program, or a governmental body, unless the alternative retail electric supplier has entered into a contractual arrangement with the governmental body and has been authorized by the governmental body to make the statements.
- (c) An alternative retail electric supplier shall not submit or execute a change in a consumer's selection of a provider of electric service unless the alternative retail electric supplier complies with the following requirements of this subsection (c). It is a violation of this Section for an alternative retail electric supplier to fail to comply with this subsection (c). The requirements of this subsection (c) shall only apply to residential and small commercial retail customers. For purposes of this subsection (c) only, "small commercial retail customer" has the meaning given to that term in Section 16-102 of the Public Utilities Act.
  - (1) During a solicitation an alternative retail electric supplier shall state that he or represents an independent seller of electric power and energy service certified by the Illinois Commerce Commission and that he or she is not employed by, representing, endorsed by, or acting on behalf of, a utility, or a utility program, a

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consumer group or consumer group program, or a governmental body, unless the alternative retail electric supplier has entered into a contractual arrangement with the governmental body and has been authorized with the governmental body to make the statements.

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(2) Alternative retail electric suppliers who engage in in-person solicitation for the purpose of selling electric power and energy service offered by alternative retail electric supplier shall identification on an outer garment. This identification shall be visible at all times and prominently display the following: (i) the alternative retail electric supplier agent's full name in reasonable size font; (ii) an agent identification number; (iii) а photograph of alternative retail electric supplier agent; and (iv) the trade name and logo of the alternative retail electric supplier the agent is representing. If the agent is selling electric power and energy services from multiple alternative retail electric suppliers to the consumer, the identification shall display the trade name and logo of the agent, broker, or consultant entity as that entity is defined in Section 16-115C of the Public Utilities Act. An alternative retail electric supplier shall leave the premises at the consumer's, owner's, or occupant's request. A copy of the Uniform Disclosure Statement described in 83 Ill. Adm. Code 412.115 and 412.Appendix A

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is to be left with the consumer, at the conclusion of the visit unless the consumer refuses to accept a copy. An alternative retail electric supplier may provide the Uniform Disclosure Statement electronically instead of in paper form to a consumer upon that customer's request. The alternative retail electric supplier shall also offer to the consumer, at the time of the initiation of the solicitation, a business card or other material that lists the agent's name, identification number and title, and the alternative retail electric supplier's name and contact information, including phone number. The alternative retail electric supplier shall not conduct any in-person solicitations of consumers at any building or premises where any sign, notice, or declaration of any description whatsoever is posted that prohibits sales, marketing, or solicitations. The alternative retail electric supplier shall obtain consent to enter multi-unit residential dwellings. Consent obtained to enter a multi-unit dwelling from one prospective customer or occupant of the dwelling shall not constitute consent to market to any other prospective consumers without separate consent.

alternative retail electric supplier contacts consumers by telephone for the purpose of selling electric power and energy service shall provide agent's name and identification number. Any telemarketing solicitations that lead to a telephone enrollment of a

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consumer must be recorded and retained for a minimum of 2 years. All telemarketing calls of consumers that do not lead to a telephone enrollment, but last at least 2 minutes, shall be recorded and retained for a minimum of 6 months.

- (4) During an inbound enrollment call, an alternative retail electric supplier shall state that he or she represents an independent seller of electric power and energy service certified by the Illinois Commerce Commission. All inbound enrollment calls that lead to an enrollment shall be recorded, and the recordings shall be retained for a minimum of 2 years. An inbound enrollment call that does not lead to an enrollment, but lasts at least 2 minutes, shall be retained for a minimum of 6 months. The alternative retail electric supplier shall send the Uniform Disclosure Statement and contract to the customer within 3 business days after the electric utility's confirmation to the alternative retail electric supplier of an accepted enrollment.
- (5) If a direct mail solicitation to a consumer includes a written letter of agency, it shall include the Uniform Disclosure Statement described in 83 Ill. Adm. Code 412.115 and 412.Appendix A. The Uniform Disclosure Statement shall be provided on a separate page from the other marketing materials included in the direct mail solicitation. If a written letter of agency is being used

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to authorize a consumer's enrollment, the written letter of agency shall comply with this Section. A copy of the contract must be sent to consumer within 3 business days after the electric utility's confirmation alternative retail electric supplier of an accepted enrollment.

## (6) Online Solicitation.

- (A) Each alternative retail electric supplier offering electric power and energy service consumers online shall clearly and conspicuously make all disclosures for any services offered through online enrollment before requiring the consumer to enter any personal information other than zip code, electric utility service territory, or type of service sought.
- Notwithstanding any requirements in this (B) the contrary, an alternative retail Section to electric supplier may secure consent from the consumer to obtain customer-specific billing and information for the sole purpose of determining and pricing a product through a letter of agency or method approved through an Illinois Commerce Commission docket before making all disclosure for services offered through online enrollment. It is a violation of this Act for an alternative retail electric supplier to use a consumer's utility account number to

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execute or change a consumer's enrollment unless the consumer expressly consents to that enrollment as required by law.

- The enrollment website of the alternative retail electric supplier shall, at a minimum, include: (i) disclosure of all material terms and conditions of the offer; (ii) a statement that electronic acceptance of the terms and conditions is an agreement to initiate service and begin enrollment; (iii) statement that the consumer shall review the contract or contact the current supplier to learn if any early termination fees are applicable; and (iv) an email address and toll-free phone number of the alternative retail electric supplier where the customer express a decision to rescind the contract.
- (7) (A) Beginning January 1, 2020, an alternative retail electric supplier shall not sell or offer to sell any products or services to a consumer pursuant to a contract in which the contract automatically renews, unless an alternative retail electric supplier provides to the consumer at the outset of the offer, in addition to other disclosures required by law, a separate written statement titled "Automatic Contract Renewal" that clearly and conspicuously discloses in bold lettering in at least 12-point font the terms and conditions of the automatic contract renewal provision, including: (i) the estimated

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bill cycle on which the initial contract term expires and a statement that it could be later based on when the utility accepts the initial enrollment; (ii) the estimated bill cycle on which the new contract term begins and a statement that it will immediately follow the last billing cycle of the current term; (iii) the procedure to terminate the contract before the new contract term applies; and (iv) the cancellation procedure. If the alternative retail electric supplier sells or offers to sell the products or services to a consumer during an in-person solicitation or telemarketing solicitation, the disclosures described in this subparagraph (A) shall also be made to the consumer verbally during the solicitation. Nothing in this subparagraph (A) shall be construed to apply to contracts entered into before January 1, 2020.

- (B) At least 30 days before, but not more than 60 days prior, to the end of the initial contract term, in any and all contracts that automatically renew after the initial term, the alternative retail electric supplier shall send, in addition to other disclosures required by law, a separate written notice of the contract renewal to the consumer that clearly and conspicuously discloses the following:
  - (i) a statement printed or visible from the outside of the envelope or in the subject line of the email, if the customer has agreed to receive

1	official documents by email, that states "Contract
2	Renewal Notice";
3	(ii) a statement in bold lettering, in at
4	least 12-point font, that the contract will
5	automatically renew unless the customer cancels
6	it;
7	(iii) the billing cycle in which service under
8	the current term will expire;
9	(iv) the billing cycle in which service under
10	the new term will begin;
11	(v) the process and options available to the
12	consumer to reject the new contract terms;
13	(vi) the cancellation process if the
14	consumer's contract automatically renews before
15	the consumer rejects the new contract terms;
16	(vii) the terms and conditions of the new
17	contract term;
18	(viii) for a fixed rate contract, a
19	side-by-side comparison of the current price and
20	the new price; for a variable rate contract or
21	time-of-use product in which the first month's
22	renewal price can be determined, a side-by-side
23	comparison of the current price and the price for
24	the first month of the new variable or time-of-use
25	price; or for a variable or time-of-use contract
26	based on a publicly available index, a

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-	side-by-side	comparison	of the	current	formula	and
2	the new formu	ıla; and				
3	(ix) the	phone num	nber and	d email	address	to

- submit a consumer inquiry or complaint to the Illinois Commerce Commission and the Office of the Attorney General.
- (C) An alternative retail electric supplier shall not automatically renew a consumer's enrollment after the current term of the contract expires when the current term of the contract provides that the consumer will be charged a fixed rate and the renewed contract provides that the consumer will be charged a variable rate, unless: (i) the alternative retail electric supplier complies with subparagraphs (A) and (B); and (ii) the customer expressly consents to the contract renewal in writing or by electronic signature at least 30 days, but no more than 60 days, before the contract expires.
- (D) This paragraph (7) does not apply to customers enrolled in a municipal aggregation program pursuant to Section 1-92 of the Illinois Power Agency Act.
- (8) All in-person and telephone solicitations shall be conducted in, translated into, and provided in a language in which the consumer subject to the marketing or solicitation is able to understand and communicate. An alternative retail electric supplier shall terminate a

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solicitation if the consumer subject to the marketing or communication is unable to understand and communicate in the language in which the marketing or solicitation is being conducted. An alternative retail electric supplier shall comply with Section 2N of this Act.

- (9) Beginning January 1, 2020, consumers shall have the right to terminate their contract with the alternative retail electric supplier at any time without termination fees or penalties.
- (10) An alternative retail electric supplier shall not submit a change to a customer's electric service provider in violation of Section 16-115E of the Public Utilities Act.
- (d) (e) Complaints may be filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission under this Section by a consumer whose electric service has been provided by an alternative retail electric supplier in a manner not in compliance with this Section or by the Illinois Commerce Commission on its own motion when it appears to the Commission that an alternative retail electric supplier has provided service in a manner not in compliance with this Section. If, after notice and hearing, the Commission finds that an alternative retail electric supplier has violated this Section, the Commission may in discretion do any one or more of the following:
  - (1) Require the violating alternative retail electric supplier to refund to the consumer charges collected in

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1 excess of those that would have been charged by the consumer's authorized electric service provider. 2

- (2) Require the violating alternative retail electric supplier to pay to the consumer's authorized electric service provider the amount the authorized electric service provider would have collected for the electric service. The Commission is authorized to reduce this payment by any amount already paid by the violating alternative retail electric supplier to the consumer's authorized provider for electric service.
- (3) Require the violating alternative retail electric supplier to pay a fine of up to \$1,000 into the Public Utility Fund for each repeated and intentional violation of this Section.
  - (4) Issue a cease and desist order.
- (5) For a pattern of violation of this Section or for intentionally violating a cease and desist order, revoke the violating alternative retail electric supplier's certificate of service authority.
- (e) (1) An alternative retail electric supplier shall not warrant that it has a residential customer or small commercial retail customer's consent to access interval meter usage data pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 16-122 of the Public Utilities Act unless the alternative retail electric supplier provides to the consumer at the outset of the offer, in addition to other disclosures required by law, a separate

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written statement titled "Interval Data Access Opt-Out" that 1 clearly and conspicuously discloses in bold lettering in at 2 least 12-point font: (i) the identity of the alternative 3 4 retail electric supplier; (ii) that the alternative retail 5 electric supplier seeks access to the customer's interval 6 meter usage data; and (iii) the toll-free number of the customer's alternative retail electric supplier to opt out of 7

providing interval meter usage data.

(2) For contracts entered into prior to the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly, the alternative retail electric supplier shall not warrant that it has obtained a residential customer's or small commercial retail customer's consent pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 16-122 of the Public Utilities Act until 30 days after notice to a current residential customer, in the manner for providing notices prescribed by the contract between the alternative retail electric supplier, that clearly and conspicuously discloses in bold lettering in at least 12-point font: (i) the identity of the alternative retail electric supplier; (ii) that the alternative retail electric supplier seeks access to the customer's interval meter usage data; and (iii) the toll-free number of the customer's alternative retail electric supplier to opt out of providing interval meter usage data.

(3) An alternative retail electric supplier shall not warrant that it has a non-residential customer's (other than a

- small commercial retail customer's) consent to access interval 1
- 2 meter usage data pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 16-122
- of the Public Utilities Act unless the contract between the 3
- 4 alternative retail electric supplier and the customer
- 5 explicitly provides the alternative retail electric supplier
- with permission to access the customer's interval meter usage 6
- 7 data.
- 8 (f) <del>(d)</del> For purposes of this Section:
- 9 "Electric service provider" shall have the meaning given
- 10 that phrase in Section 6.5 of the Attorney General Act.
- "Alternative retail electric supplier" has the meaning 11
- given to that term in Section 16-102 of the Public Utilities 12
- 13 Act.
- (Source: P.A. 101-590, eff. 1-1-20.) 14
- Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon 15
- becoming law.". 16