
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1241

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By House Committee on Energy & Utilities (originally sponsored by Representatives Crouse, Casada, Dellwo, Chappell, Schoesler, Honeyford, Hymes, Sherstad, Backlund, Mastin, Benton, Campbell and Kremen)

Read first time 02/09/95.

1 AN ACT Relating to waivers of electric and gas utility connection
2 charges; amending RCW 35.41.080 and 54.24.080; and adding a new section
3 to chapter 35.21 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 A city or town, including a code city, that owns or operates an
8 electric or gas utility may waive connection charges for properties
9 purchased by low-income persons from organizations exempt from tax
10 under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code as amended
11 prior to the effective date of this act. Waivers of connection charges
12 for the same class of electric or gas utility service must be uniformly
13 applied to all qualified property. Nothing in this section authorizes
14 the impairment of a contract.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.41.080 and 1971 ex.s. c 223 s 3 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The legislative body of any city or town may provide by
18 ordinance for revenues by fixing rates and charges for the furnishing

1 of service, use, or benefits to those to whom service, use, or benefits
2 from such facility or utility is available, which rates and charges
3 shall be uniform for the same class of service. (~~And,~~) The
4 legislative body may waive connection charges for properties purchased
5 by low-income persons from organizations exempt from tax under section
6 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code as amended prior to the
7 effective date of this act. Waivers of connection charges for the same
8 class of electric or gas utility service must be uniformly applied to
9 all qualified property. Nothing in this subsection (1) authorizes the
10 impairment of a contract.

11 (2) If revenue bonds or warrants are issued against the revenues
12 (~~thereof~~) collected under subsection (1) of this section, the
13 legislative body of the city or town shall fix charges at rates which
14 will be sufficient, together with any other moneys lawfully pledged
15 therefor, to provide for the payment of bonds and warrants, principal
16 and interest, sinking fund requirements and expenses incidental to the
17 issuance of such revenue bonds or warrants; in fixing such charges the
18 legislative body of the city or town may establish rates sufficient to
19 pay, in addition, the costs of operating and maintaining such facility
20 or utility.

21 **Sec. 3.** RCW 54.24.080 and 1991 c 347 s 21 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 (1) The commission of each district which shall have revenue
24 obligations outstanding shall have the power and shall be required to
25 establish, maintain, and collect rates or charges for electric energy
26 and water and other services, facilities, and commodities sold,
27 furnished, or supplied by the district (~~which~~). The rates and
28 charges shall be fair and, except as authorized by RCW 74.38.070 and by
29 subsections (2) and (3) of this section, nondiscriminatory, and shall
30 be adequate to provide revenues sufficient for the payment of the
31 principal of and interest on such revenue obligations for which the
32 payment has not otherwise been provided and all payments which the
33 district is obligated to set aside in any special fund or funds created
34 for such purpose, and for the proper operation and maintenance of the
35 public utility and all necessary repairs, replacements, and renewals
36 thereof.

37 (2) The commission of a district may waive connection charges for
38 properties purchased by low-income persons from organizations exempt

1 from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code
2 as amended prior to the effective date of this act. Waivers of
3 connection charges for the same class of electric or gas utility
4 service must be uniformly applied to all qualified property. Nothing
5 in this subsection (2) authorizes the impairment of a contract.

6 (3) In establishing rates or charges for water service,
7 commissioners may in their discretion consider the achievement of water
8 conservation goals and the discouragement of wasteful water use
9 practices.

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