

5333-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Energy, Technology & Telecommunications (originally sponsored by Senators Brown, Fairley, Fraser, Goings, Winsley, Costa and Kohl-Welles)

Brief Title: Allowing reduced rate utility service for low-income citizens.

**SB 5333-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Authorizes low-income rate discounts by gas and electric companies.

Declares an intent to clarify the authority of the utilities and transportation commission to approve such reduced rates and charges for low-income customers of electrical and gas companies. It is not the legislature's intent that the commission allow substantial cost shifts to other ratepayers as a result of such discounts.

Provides that, upon request by an electrical or gas company, the commission may approve rates, charges, services, and/or physical facilities at a discount for low-income senior customers and low-income customers. Expenses and lost revenues as a result of these discounts shall be included in the company's cost of service and recovered in rates to other customers.