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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2261**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2016 Regular Session**

**By** House Technology & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representatives Shea, Reykdal, Taylor, Scott, and Van Werven)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting utility customers by modifying the  
2 authority of utilities to backbill customers for charges missed due  
3 to utility error; adding a new section to chapter 19.29A RCW; and  
4 creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that large  
7 retroactive utility bills may impose undue hardship on residential  
8 customers, particularly those living on low and fixed incomes. The  
9 legislature intends to limit the period of time for which a consumer-  
10 owned utility may issue a corrected bill when the billing error is  
11 attributable to circumstances within the utility's control.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.29A  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) A consumer-owned utility may not collect amounts underbilled  
15 due to a billing error of the consumer-owned utility for any period  
16 greater than six months from the date the billing error occurred.

17 (2) For purposes of this section "billing error" means error  
18 arising from: (a) Nonregistering, incorrectly registering, or crossed  
19 meters; (b) other faulty equipment; and (c) administrative error,

1 including incorrect meter reads, clerical errors, incorrect billing  
2 calculations, and application of an incorrect daily billing factor.

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