
HOUSE BILL 1650

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Wilson, Haugen, Brough and R. Johnson.

Read first time February 5, 1991. Referred to Committee on Energy & Utilities.

1 AN ACT Relating to utilities; adding a new section to chapter 35.92
2 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 54.16 RCW; adding a new section to
3 chapter 80.28 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Recent storms involving a combination of
6 high winds, flooding, extreme cold, heavy snowfall, and ice caused the
7 loss of electric power by thousands of Washington residents for
8 extended periods of time. Residents of the state's many islands are
9 particularly vulnerable to the loss of power since a single line may
10 provide power to the entire island. It is the intent of this act to
11 protect island inhabitants from the loss of electric power due to storm
12 damage to power lines.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.92 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 A city or town operating an electrical distribution facility that
4 provides service to an island shall take all reasonable measures to
5 prevent the loss of electricity to the island. At a minimum, the
6 utility shall either (1) place underground the electric power line from
7 the last electrical substation on the mainland to the island or (2)
8 have at least two electrical power lines to the island, located such
9 that the loss of one line from an object falling on the line or damage
10 to a supporting pole or tower will not cause the loss of another power
11 line to the island.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 54.16 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 A public utility district operating an electrical distribution
15 facility that provides service to an island shall take all reasonable
16 measures to prevent the loss of electricity to the island. At a
17 minimum, the utility shall either (1) place underground the electric
18 power line from the last electrical substation on the mainland to the
19 island or (2) have at least two electrical power lines to the island,
20 located such that the loss of one line from an object falling on the
21 line or damage to a supporting pole or tower will not cause the loss of
22 another power line to the island.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 80.28 RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 An electrical company operating an electrical distribution facility
26 that provides service to an island shall take all reasonable measures
27 to prevent the loss of electricity to the island. At a minimum, the
28 utility shall either (1) place underground the electric power line from

1 the last electrical substation on the mainland to the island or (2)
2 have at least two electrical power lines to the island, located such
3 that the loss of one line from an object falling on the line or damage
4 to a supporting pole or tower will not cause the loss of another power
5 line to the island.