
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5877

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Energy & Utilities (originally sponsored by Senators Thorsness, Talmadge and A. Smith).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to the effects of electric and magnetic fields;
2 adding a new section to chapter 35.21 RCW; adding a new section to
3 chapter 54.16 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 80.28 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 electricity
7 is an indispensable part of modern living and contributes to the
8 health, safety, and happiness of our society. The legislature further
9 finds that a great amount of information is needed before the effects
10 of electric and magnetic fields can be definitively determined, and
11 that customers of electric utilities need additional information on the
12 characteristics and prevalence of this form of nonionizing radiation.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21 RCW
14 to read as follows:

1 By January 1, 1992, any city or town distributing electric energy
2 shall by general ordinance enact a program to inform customers of the
3 nature and presence of electric and magnetic fields. The program shall
4 include, but not be limited to, the following elements:

5 (1) Public information, including the distribution of billing
6 inserts that describe the characteristics of electric and magnetic
7 fields, the extent to which information is known and unknown about
8 effects from electric and magnetic fields, a brief explanation of
9 ongoing research into electric and magnetic fields, and ways customers
10 may obtain additional information on electric and magnetic fields.

11 (2) A one-time inspection of residential units, if requested by a
12 customer, provided on a waiting list basis, for the purpose of
13 determining the amount of residential exposure to electric and magnetic
14 fields; or information about how a customer may obtain residential
15 electric and magnetic field measurements through entities providing
16 such services or measuring devices.

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

19 By January 1, 1992, any district distributing electric energy shall
20 by resolution enact a program to inform customers of the nature and
21 presence of electric and magnetic fields. The program shall include,
22 but not be limited to, the following elements:

23 (1) Public information, including the distribution of billing
24 inserts that describe the characteristics of electric and magnetic
25 fields, the extent to which information is known and unknown about
26 effects from electric and magnetic fields, a brief explanation of
27 ongoing research into electric and magnetic fields, and ways customers
28 may obtain additional information on electric and magnetic fields.

1 (2) A one-time inspection of residential units, if requested by a
2 customer, provided on a waiting list basis, for the purpose of
3 determining the amount of residential exposure to electric and magnetic
4 fields; or information about how a customer may obtain residential
5 electric and magnetic field measurements through entities providing
6 such services or measuring devices.

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

9 By January 1, 1992, each electrical company shall institute a
10 program to inform customers of the nature and presence of electric and
11 magnetic fields. The program shall include, but not be limited to, the
12 following elements:

13 (1) Public information, including the distribution of information
14 that describes the characteristics of electric and magnetic fields, the
15 extent to which information is known and unknown about effects from
16 electric and magnetic fields, a brief explanation of ongoing research
17 into electric and magnetic fields, and ways customers may obtain
18 additional information on electric and magnetic fields.

19 (2) A one-time inspection of residential units, if requested by a
20 customer, provided on a waiting list basis, for the purpose of
21 determining the amount of residential exposure to electric and magnetic
22 fields; or information about how a customer may obtain residential
23 electric and magnetic field measurements through entities providing
24 such services or measuring devices.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 80.28 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 The commission shall provide an appropriate regulatory mechanism
28 that allows an electrical company regulated by the commission to

1 recover expenses incurred by the company under section 4 of this act.