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**SENATE BILL 5877**

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**State of Washington**

**52nd Legislature**

**1991 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Thorsness, Talmadge and A. Smith.

Read first time February 28, 1991. Referred to Committee on Energy & Utilities.

1 AN ACT Relating to the effects of electric and magnetic fields;  
2 amending RCW 82.16.052; adding a new section to chapter 35.21 RCW;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 54.16 RCW; adding new sections to  
4 chapter 80.28 RCW; and 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 billing  
14 inserts that describe the characteristics of electric and magnetic  
15 fields, the extent to which information is known and unknown about  
16 effects from electric and magnetic fields, a brief explanation of  
17 ongoing research into electric and magnetic fields, and ways customers  
18 may obtain 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:

1       The commission shall provide an appropriate regulatory mechanism  
2 that allows an electrical company regulated by the commission to  
3 recover expenses incurred by the company under section 4 of this act.

4       **Sec. 6.** RCW 82.16.052 and 1990 c 2 s 10 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6       (1) In computing tax under this chapter there shall be deducted  
7 from the gross income:

8       (a) Payments made under RCW 19.27A.035; (~~and~~)

9       (b) Those amounts expended on additional programs that improve the  
10 efficiency of energy end use if priority is given to senior citizens  
11 and low-income citizens in the course of carrying out such programs;  
12 and

13       (c) Costs incurred under sections 2, 3, and 4 of this act.

14       (2) The department, after consultation with the utilities and  
15 transportation commission in the case of investor-owned utilities and  
16 the governing bodies of locally regulated utilities, shall determine  
17 the eligibility of individual programs for deductions under this  
18 section.

19       (3) Until July 1, 1992, utilities may deduct from the amount of tax  
20 paid under this chapter fifty percent of the payments made under RCW  
21 19.27A.055, excluding any federal funds that are passed through to a  
22 utility for the purpose of retraining local code officials.

23       (4) This section shall expire January 1, 1996.