

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2575

Chapter 137, Laws of 2026

69th Legislature
2026 Regular Session

REPORTING OBLIGATIONS—ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2026

Passed by the House February 12, 2026
Yeas 95 Nays 0

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2026
Yeas 47 Nays 0

DENNY HECK

President of the Senate

Approved March 23, 2026 10:27 AM

BOB FERGUSON

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2575** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

March 23, 2026

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2575

Passed Legislature - 2026 Regular Session

State of Washington 69th Legislature 2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Hall, Doglio, Parshley, Stearns, and Duerr

Read first time 01/19/26. Referred to Committee on Environment & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing certain reporting obligations under
2 environmental or energy laws; amending RCW 19.285.070, 43.21F.045,
3 23.86.405, 24.06.605, 35.21.302, 54.16.285, 57.08.081, 80.28.010, and
4 87.03.015; and repealing RCW 19.280.060.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.285.070 and 2007 c 1 s 7 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) (a) On or before June 1, 2012, and ~~((annually))~~ biennially
9 thereafter, each qualifying utility shall report to the department on
10 its ~~((progress in the preceding year))~~ compliance in meeting the
11 targets established in RCW 19.285.040, including ~~((expected))~~ :

12 (i) Expected electricity savings from the biennial conservation
13 target ~~((r-expenditures))~~ ;

14 (ii) Expenditures that were made on conservation ~~((r-actual))~~ ;

15 (iii) Actual electricity savings results ~~((r-the))~~ ;

16 (iv) The utility's annual load for the prior two years ~~((r-the))~~ ;

17 (v) The amount of megawatt-hours that were needed to meet the
18 annual renewable energy target ~~((r-the))~~ ;

19 (vi) The amount of megawatt-hours of each type of eligible
20 renewable resource that were acquired ~~((r-the))~~ ;

1 (vii) The type and amount of renewable energy credits
2 ((acquired,)) that were retired; and ((the))

3 (viii) The percent of its total annual retail revenue requirement
4 that was invested in the incremental cost of eligible renewable
5 resources and the cost of renewable energy credits.

6 (b) For each year that a qualifying utility elects to demonstrate
7 alternative compliance under RCW 19.285.040(2) (d) or (i) or
8 19.285.050(1), it must include in its annual report relevant data to
9 demonstrate that it met the criteria in that section. A qualifying
10 utility may submit its report to the department in conjunction with
11 its annual obligations in chapter 19.29A RCW.

12 (2) A qualifying utility that is an investor-owned utility shall
13 also report all information required in subsection (1) of this
14 section to the commission, and all other qualifying utilities shall
15 also make all information required in subsection (1) of this section
16 available to the auditor.

17 (3) A qualifying utility shall also make reports required in this
18 section available to its customers.

19 (4) A qualifying utility is encouraged to use any savings
20 resulting from the decreased reporting requirements in this act for
21 low-income energy assistance.

22 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.21F.045 and 2023 c 124 s 5 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (1) The department shall supervise and administer energy-related
25 activities as specified in RCW 43.330.904 and shall advise the
26 governor and the legislature with respect to energy matters affecting
27 the state.

28 (2) In addition to other powers and duties granted to the
29 department, the department shall have the following powers and
30 duties:

31 (a) Prepare and update contingency plans for securing energy
32 infrastructure against all physical and cybersecurity threats, and
33 for implementation in the event of energy shortages or emergencies.
34 The plans shall conform to chapter 43.21G RCW and shall include
35 procedures for determining when these shortages or emergencies exist,
36 the state officers and agencies to participate in the determination,
37 and actions to be taken by various agencies and officers of state
38 government in order to reduce hardship and maintain the general
39 welfare during these emergencies. The department shall coordinate the

1 activities undertaken pursuant to this subsection with other persons.
2 The components of plans that require legislation for their
3 implementation shall be presented to the legislature in the form of
4 proposed legislation at the earliest practicable date. The department
5 shall report to the governor and the legislature on probable,
6 imminent, and existing energy shortages, and shall administer energy
7 allocation and curtailment programs in accordance with chapter 43.21G
8 RCW.

9 (b) Establish and maintain a central repository in state
10 government for collection of existing data on energy resources,
11 including:

12 (i) Supply, demand, costs, utilization technology, projections,
13 and forecasts;

14 (ii) Comparative costs of alternative energy sources, uses, and
15 applications; and

16 (iii) Inventory data on energy research projects in the state
17 conducted under public and/or private auspices, and the results
18 thereof.

19 (c) Coordinate federal energy programs appropriate for state-
20 level implementation, carry out such energy programs as are assigned
21 to it by the governor or the legislature, and monitor federally
22 funded local energy programs as required by federal or state
23 regulations.

24 (d) Develop energy policy recommendations for consideration by
25 the governor and the legislature.

26 (e) Provide assistance, space, and other support as may be
27 necessary for the activities of the state's two representatives to
28 the Pacific northwest electric power and conservation planning
29 council. To the extent consistent with federal law, the director
30 shall request that Washington's councilmembers request the
31 administrator of the Bonneville power administration to reimburse the
32 state for the expenses associated with the support as provided in the
33 Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (P.L.
34 96-501).

35 (f) Cooperate with state agencies, other governmental units, and
36 private interests in the prioritization and implementation of the
37 state energy strategy elements and on other energy matters.

38 (g) Serve as the official state agency responsible for
39 coordinating implementation of the state energy strategy.

1 (h) No later than December 1, (~~1982, and by December 1st of each~~
2 ~~even-numbered year thereafter~~) 2024, and no later than four years
3 after the completion of a review of the state energy strategy under
4 RCW 43.21F.090(1), prepare and transmit to the governor and the
5 appropriate committees of the legislature a report on the
6 implementation of the state energy strategy and other important
7 energy issues, as appropriate.

8 (i) Provide support for increasing cost-effective energy
9 conservation, including assisting in the removal of impediments to
10 timely implementation.

11 (j) Provide support for the development of cost-effective energy
12 resources including assisting in the removal of impediments to timely
13 construction.

14 (k) Adopt rules, under chapter 34.05 RCW, necessary to carry out
15 the powers and duties enumerated in this chapter.

16 (l) Provide administrative assistance, space, and other support
17 as may be necessary for the activities of the energy facility site
18 evaluation council, as provided for in RCW 80.50.030.

19 (m) Appoint staff as may be needed to administer energy policy
20 functions and manage energy facility site evaluation council
21 activities. These employees are exempt from the provisions of chapter
22 41.06 RCW.

23 (3) To the extent the powers and duties set out under this
24 section relate to energy education, applied research, and technology
25 transfer programs they are transferred to Washington State
26 University.

27 (4) To the extent the powers and duties set out under this
28 section relate to energy efficiency in public buildings they are
29 transferred to the department of enterprise services.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 23.86.405 and 2023 c 105 s 1 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) As used in this section, any locally regulated utility as
33 defined in RCW 23.86.400 may not effect, due to lack of payment, an
34 involuntary termination of electric utility service to any
35 residential user, including tenants of metered apartment buildings
36 and residents of mobile homes, on any day for which the national
37 weather service has issued or has announced that it intends to issue
38 a heat-related alert, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat

1 advisory, an excessive heat watch, or a similar alert, for the area
2 in which the residential user's address is located.

3 (2) (a) A residential user at whose dwelling electric utility
4 service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request that
5 the locally regulated utility reconnect service on any day for which
6 the national weather service has issued or has announced that it
7 intends to issue a heat-related alert, such as an excessive heat
8 warning, a heat advisory, an excessive heat watch, or a similar
9 alert, for the area in which the residential user's address is
10 located. The locally regulated utility shall inform all customers in
11 the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek reconnection and
12 provide clear and specific information on how to make that request,
13 including how to contact the utility.

14 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
15 subsection, the locally regulated utility shall promptly make a
16 reasonable attempt to reconnect service to the dwelling. The locally
17 regulated utility, in connection with a request made pursuant to (a)
18 of this subsection, may require the residential user to enter into a
19 payment plan prior to reconnecting service to the dwelling. If the
20 locally regulated utility requires the residential user to enter into
21 a repayment plan, the repayment plan must comply with subsection (3)
22 of this section.

23 (3) A repayment plan required by a locally regulated utility
24 pursuant to subsection (2) (b) of this section will be designed both
25 to pay the past due bill by the following May 15th, or as soon as
26 possible after May 15th if needed to maintain monthly payments that
27 are no greater than six percent of the customer's monthly income, and
28 to pay for continued utility service. The plan may not require
29 monthly payments in excess of six percent of the customer's monthly
30 income. A customer may agree to pay a higher percentage during this
31 period, but will not be in default unless payment during this period
32 is less than six percent of the customer's monthly income. If
33 assistance payments are received by the customer subsequent to
34 implementation of the plan, the customer shall contact the locally
35 regulated utility to reformulate the plan.

36 ~~((4) On an annual basis, each locally regulated utility with~~
37 ~~more than 25,000 retail electric customers in Washington must submit~~
38 ~~a report to the department of commerce that includes the total number~~
39 ~~of disconnections that occurred on each day for which the national~~
40 ~~weather service issued, or announced that it intended to issue, a~~

1 ~~heat-related alert. Locally regulated utilities with fewer than~~
2 ~~25,000 retail electric customers in Washington must provide similar~~
3 ~~information upon request by the department.~~

4 ~~(a) Subject to availability, each locally regulated utility must~~
5 ~~provide any other information related to utility disconnections that~~
6 ~~is requested by the department.~~

7 ~~(b) The information required in this subsection must be submitted~~
8 ~~in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department.)~~

9 (4) Each locally regulated utility is encouraged to use any
10 savings resulting from the removal of reporting requirements in this
11 act for low-income energy assistance.

12 **Sec. 4.** RCW 24.06.605 and 2023 c 105 s 2 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) As used in this section, any locally regulated utility as
15 defined in RCW 24.06.600 may not effect, due to lack of payment, an
16 involuntary termination of electric utility service to any
17 residential user, including tenants of metered apartment buildings
18 and residents of mobile homes, on any day for which the national
19 weather service has issued or has announced that it intends to issue
20 a heat-related alert, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat
21 advisory, an excessive heat watch, or a similar alert, for the area
22 in which the residential user's address is located.

23 (2)(a) A residential user at whose dwelling electric utility
24 service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request that
25 the locally regulated utility reconnect service on any day for which
26 the national weather service has issued or has announced that it
27 intends to issue a heat-related alert, such as an excessive heat
28 warning, a heat advisory, an excessive heat watch, or a similar
29 alert, for the area in which the residential user's address is
30 located. The locally regulated utility shall inform all customers in
31 the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek reconnection and
32 provide clear and specific information on how to make that request,
33 including how to contact the utility.

34 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
35 subsection, the locally regulated utility shall promptly make a
36 reasonable attempt to reconnect service to the dwelling. The locally
37 regulated utility, in connection with a request made pursuant to (a)
38 of this subsection, may require the residential user to enter into a
39 payment plan prior to reconnecting service to the dwelling. If the

1 locally regulated utility requires the residential user to enter into
2 a repayment plan, the repayment plan must comply with subsection (3)
3 of this section.

4 (3) A repayment plan required by a locally regulated utility
5 pursuant to subsection (2)(b) of this section will be designed both
6 to pay the past due bill by the following May 15th, or as soon as
7 possible after May 15th if needed to maintain monthly payments that
8 are no greater than six percent of the customer's monthly income, and
9 to pay for continued utility service. The plan must not require
10 monthly payments in excess of six percent of the customer's monthly
11 income. A customer may agree to pay a higher percentage during this
12 period, but will not be in default unless payment during this period
13 is less than six percent of the customer's monthly income. If
14 assistance payments are received by the customer subsequent to
15 implementation of the plan, the customer shall contact the locally
16 regulated utility to reformulate the plan.

17 ~~((4) On an annual basis, each locally regulated utility with
18 more than 25,000 retail electric customers in Washington must submit
19 a report to the department of commerce that includes the total number
20 of disconnections that occurred on each day for which the national
21 weather service issued, or announced that it intended to issue, a
22 heat-related alert. Locally regulated utilities with fewer than
23 25,000 retail electric customers in Washington must provide similar
24 information upon request by the department.~~

25 ~~(a) Subject to availability, each locally regulated utility must
26 provide any other information related to utility disconnections that
27 is requested by the department.~~

28 ~~(b) The information required in this subsection must be submitted
29 in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department.)~~

30 (4) Each locally regulated utility is encouraged to use any
31 savings resulting from the removal of reporting requirements in this
32 act for low-income energy assistance.

33 **Sec. 5.** RCW 35.21.302 and 2023 c 105 s 3 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) A city or town, including a code city, that owns or operates
36 an electric or water utility may not effect, due to lack of payment,
37 an involuntary termination of utility service to any residential
38 user, including tenants of metered apartment buildings and residents
39 of mobile homes, on any day for which the national weather service

1 has issued or has announced that it intends to issue a heat-related
2 alert, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat advisory, an
3 excessive heat watch, or a similar alert, for the area in which the
4 residential user's address is located.

5 (2) (a) A residential user at whose dwelling utility service has
6 been disconnected for lack of payment may request that the utility
7 reconnect service on any day for which the national weather service
8 has issued or has announced that it intends to issue a heat-related
9 alert, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat advisory, an
10 excessive heat watch, or a similar alert, for the area in which the
11 residential user's address is located. The utility shall inform all
12 customers in the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek
13 reconnection and provide clear and specific information on how to
14 make that request, including how to contact the utility.

15 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
16 subsection, the utility shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to
17 reconnect service to the dwelling. The utility, in connection with a
18 request made pursuant to (a) of this subsection, may require the
19 residential user to enter into a payment plan prior to reconnecting
20 service to the dwelling. If the utility requires the residential user
21 to enter into a repayment plan, the repayment plan must comply with
22 subsection (3) of this section.

23 (3) A repayment plan required by a utility pursuant to subsection
24 (2) (b) of this section will be designed both to pay the past due bill
25 by the following May 15th, or as soon as possible after May 15th if
26 needed to maintain monthly payments that are no greater than six
27 percent of the customer's monthly income, and to pay for continued
28 utility service. The plan may not require monthly payments in excess
29 of six percent of the customer's monthly income. A customer may agree
30 to pay a higher percentage during this period, but will not be in
31 default unless payment during this period is less than six percent of
32 the customer's monthly income. If assistance payments are received by
33 the customer subsequent to implementation of the plan, the customer
34 shall contact the utility to reformulate the plan.

35 ~~((4) On an annual basis, each city or town, including a code~~
36 ~~city, that owns or operates an electric or water utility with more~~
37 ~~than 25,000 retail electric customers or 2,500 water customers in~~
38 ~~Washington must submit a report to the department of commerce that~~
39 ~~includes the total number of disconnections that occurred on each day~~
40 ~~for which the national weather service issued, or announced that it~~

1 ~~intended to issue, a heat-related alert. Utilities with fewer than~~
2 ~~25,000 retail electric customers or 2,500 water customers in~~
3 ~~Washington must provide similar information upon request by the~~
4 ~~department.~~

5 ~~(a) Subject to availability, each utility must provide any other~~
6 ~~information related to utility disconnections that is requested by~~
7 ~~the department.~~

8 ~~(b) The information required in this subsection must be submitted~~
9 ~~in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department.)~~

10 (4) Each city or town that owns and operates an electric utility
11 is encouraged to use any savings resulting from the removal of
12 reporting requirements in this act for low-income energy assistance.

13 **Sec. 6.** RCW 54.16.285 and 2023 c 105 s 4 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) A district providing utility service for residential space
16 heating shall not terminate such utility service between November 15
17 through March 15 if the customer:

18 (a) Notifies the utility of the inability to pay the bill. This
19 notice should be provided within five business days of receiving a
20 payment overdue notice unless there are extenuating circumstances. If
21 the customer fails to notify the utility within five business days
22 and service is terminated, the customer can, by fulfilling the
23 requirements of this section, receive the protections of this
24 chapter;

25 (b) Provides self-certification of household income for the prior
26 12 months to a grantee of the department of commerce which
27 administers federally funded energy assistance programs. The grantee
28 shall determine that the household income does not exceed the maximum
29 allowed for eligibility under the state's plan for low-income energy
30 assistance under 42 U.S.C. 8624 and shall provide a dollar figure
31 that is seven percent of household income. The grantee may verify
32 information provided in the self-certification;

33 (c) Has applied for home heating assistance from applicable
34 government and private sector organizations and certifies that any
35 assistance received will be applied to the current bill and future
36 utility bills;

37 (d) Has applied for low-income weatherization assistance to the
38 utility or other appropriate agency if such assistance is available
39 for the dwelling;

1 (e) Agrees to a payment plan and agrees to maintain the payment
2 plan. The plan will be designed both to pay the past due bill by the
3 following October 15 and to pay for continued utility service. If the
4 past due bill is not paid by the following October 15, the customer
5 shall not be eligible for protections under this chapter until the
6 past due bill is paid. The plan shall not require monthly payments in
7 excess of seven percent of the customer's monthly income plus one-
8 twelfth of any arrearage accrued from the date application is made
9 and thereafter during November 15 through March 15. A customer may
10 agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but shall not be
11 in default unless payment during this period is less than seven
12 percent of monthly income plus one-twelfth of any arrearage accrued
13 from the date application is made and thereafter. If assistance
14 payments are received by the customer subsequent to implementation of
15 the plan, the customer shall contact the utility to reformulate the
16 plan; and

17 (f) Agrees to pay the moneys owed even if the customer moves.

18 (2) The utility shall:

19 (a) Include in any notice that an account is delinquent and that
20 service may be subject to termination, a description of the
21 customer's duties in this section;

22 (b) Assist the customer in fulfilling the requirements under this
23 section;

24 (c) Be authorized to transfer an account to a new residence when
25 a customer who has established a plan under this section moves from
26 one residence to another within the same utility service area;

27 (d) Be permitted to disconnect service if the customer fails to
28 honor the payment program except on the days indicated in subsection
29 (5) of this section. Utilities may continue to disconnect service for
30 those practices authorized by law other than for nonpayment as
31 provided for in this section. Customers who qualify for payment plans
32 under this section who default on their payment plans and are
33 disconnected can be reconnected and maintain the protections afforded
34 under this chapter by paying all amounts that would have been due and
35 owing under the terms of the applicable payment plan, absent default,
36 on the date on which service is reconnected; and

37 (e) Advise the customer in writing at the time it disconnects
38 service that it will restore service if the customer contacts the
39 utility and fulfills the other requirements of this section.

1 (3) All districts providing utility service for residential space
2 heating shall offer residential customers the option of a budget
3 billing or equal payment plan. The budget billing or equal payment
4 plan shall be offered low-income customers eligible under the state's
5 plan for low-income energy assistance prepared in accordance with 42
6 U.S.C. 8624(C)(1) without limiting availability to certain months of
7 the year, without regard to the length of time the customer has
8 occupied the premises, and without regard to whether the customer is
9 the tenant or owner of the premises occupied.

10 (4) An agreement between the customer and the utility, whether
11 oral or written, shall not waive the protections afforded under this
12 chapter.

13 (5) A district providing electric or water utility service to
14 residential customers may not effect, due to lack of payment, an
15 involuntary termination of utility service to any residential user,
16 including tenants of metered apartment buildings and residents of
17 mobile homes, on any day for which the national weather service has
18 issued or has announced that it intends to issue a heat-related
19 alert, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat advisory, an
20 excessive heat watch, or a similar alert, for the area in which the
21 residential user's address is located.

22 (6)(a) A residential user at whose dwelling utility service has
23 been disconnected for lack of payment may request that the district
24 reconnect service on any day for which the national weather service
25 has issued or has announced that it intends to issue a heat-related
26 alert, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat advisory, an
27 excessive heat watch, or a similar alert, for the area in which the
28 residential user's address is located. The district shall inform all
29 customers in the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek
30 reconnection and provide clear and specific information on how to
31 make that request, including how to contact the district.

32 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
33 subsection, the district shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to
34 reconnect service to the dwelling. The district, in connection with a
35 request made pursuant to (a) of this subsection, may require the
36 residential user to enter into a payment plan prior to reconnecting
37 service to the dwelling. If the district requires the residential
38 user to enter into a repayment plan, the repayment plan must comply
39 with subsection (7) of this section.

1 (7) A repayment plan required by a district pursuant to
2 subsection (6)(b) of this section will be designed both to pay the
3 past due bill by the following May 15th, or as soon as possible after
4 May 15th if needed to maintain monthly payments that are no greater
5 than six percent of the customer's monthly income, and to pay for
6 continued utility service. The plan may not require monthly payments
7 in excess of six percent of the customer's monthly income. A customer
8 may agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but will not
9 be in default unless payment during this period is less than six
10 percent of the customer's monthly income. If assistance payments are
11 received by the customer subsequent to implementation of the plan,
12 the customer shall contact the district to reformulate the plan.

13 ~~((8) On an annual basis, each district with more than 25,000~~
14 ~~retail electric customers or 2,500 water customers in Washington must~~
15 ~~submit a report to the department of commerce that includes the total~~
16 ~~number of disconnections that occurred on each day for which the~~
17 ~~national weather service issued, or announced that it intended to~~
18 ~~issue, a heat-related alert. Districts with fewer than 25,000 retail~~
19 ~~electric customers or 2,500 water customers in Washington must~~
20 ~~provide similar information upon request by the department.~~

21 ~~(a) Subject to availability, each district must provide any other~~
22 ~~information related to utility disconnections that is requested by~~
23 ~~the department.~~

24 ~~(b) The information required in this subsection must be submitted~~
25 ~~in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department.)~~

26 (8) Each district with retail electric customers is encouraged to
27 use any savings resulting from the removal of reporting requirements
28 in this act for low-income energy assistance.

29 **Sec. 7.** RCW 57.08.081 and 2023 c 105 s 5 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (1) Subject to RCW 57.08.005(7), the commissioners of any
32 district shall provide for revenues by fixing rates and charges for
33 furnishing sewer and drainage service and facilities to those to whom
34 service is available or for providing water, such rates and charges
35 to be fixed as deemed necessary by the commissioners, so that uniform
36 charges will be made for the same class of customer or service and
37 facility. Rates and charges may be combined for the furnishing of
38 more than one type of sewer or drainage service and facilities.

1 (2) In classifying customers of such water, sewer, or drainage
2 system, the board of commissioners may in its discretion consider any
3 or all of the following factors: The difference in cost to various
4 customers; the location of the various customers within and without
5 the district; the difference in cost of maintenance, operation,
6 repair, and replacement of the various parts of the system; the
7 different character of the service furnished various customers; the
8 quantity and quality of the service and facility furnished; the time
9 of its use; the achievement of water conservation goals and the
10 discouragement of wasteful practices; capital contributions made to
11 the system including but not limited to assessments; and any other
12 matters which present a reasonable difference as a ground for
13 distinction. Rates shall be established as deemed proper by the
14 commissioners and as fixed by resolution and shall produce revenues
15 sufficient to take care of the costs of maintenance and operation,
16 revenue bond and warrant interest and principal amortization
17 requirements, and all other charges necessary for efficient and
18 proper operation of the system. Prior to furnishing services, a
19 district may require a deposit to guarantee payment for services.
20 However, failure to require a deposit does not affect the validity of
21 any lien authorized by this section.

22 (3) The commissioners shall enforce collection of connection
23 charges, and rates and charges for water supplied against property
24 owners connecting with the system or receiving such water, and for
25 sewer and drainage services charged against property to which and its
26 owners to whom the service is available, such charges being deemed
27 charges against the property served, by addition of penalties of not
28 more than ten percent thereof in case of failure to pay the charges
29 at times fixed by resolution. The commissioners may provide by
30 resolution that where either connection charges or rates and charges
31 for services supplied are delinquent for any specified period of
32 time, the district shall certify the delinquencies to the auditor of
33 the county in which the real property is located, and the charges and
34 any penalties added thereto and interest thereon at the rate of not
35 more than the prime lending rate of the district's bank plus four
36 percentage points per year shall be a lien against the property upon
37 which the service was received, subject only to the lien for general
38 taxes.

39 (4) The district may, at any time after the connection charges or
40 rates and charges for services supplied or available and penalties

1 are delinquent for a period of 60 days, bring suit in foreclosure by
2 civil action in the superior court of the county in which the real
3 property is located. The court may allow, in addition to the costs
4 and disbursements provided by statute, attorneys' fees, title search
5 and report costs, and expenses as it adjudges reasonable. The action
6 shall be in rem, and may be brought in the name of the district
7 against an individual or against all of those who are delinquent in
8 one action. The laws and rules of the court shall control as in other
9 civil actions.

10 (5) In addition to the right to foreclose provided in this
11 section, the district may also cut off all or part of the service
12 after charges for water or sewer service supplied or available are
13 delinquent for a period of 30 days, except on the days indicated in
14 subsection (8) of this section.

15 (6) A district may determine how to apply partial payments on
16 past due accounts.

17 (7) A district may provide a real property owner or the owner's
18 designee with duplicate bills for service to tenants, or may notify
19 an owner or the owner's designee that a tenant's service account is
20 delinquent. However, if an owner or the owner's designee notifies the
21 district in writing that a property served by the district is a
22 rental property, asks to be notified of a tenant's delinquency, and
23 has provided, in writing, a complete and accurate mailing address,
24 the district shall notify the owner or the owner's designee of a
25 tenant's delinquency at the same time and in the same manner the
26 district notifies the tenant of the tenant's delinquency or by mail.
27 When a district provides a real property owner or the owner's
28 designee with duplicates of tenant utility service bills or notice
29 that a tenant's utility account is delinquent, the district shall
30 notify the tenant that it is providing the duplicate bills or
31 delinquency notice to the owner or the owner's designee. After
32 January 1, 1999, if a district fails to notify the owner of a
33 tenant's delinquency after receiving a written request to do so and
34 after receiving the other information required by this subsection
35 (7), the district shall have no lien against the premises for the
36 tenant's delinquent and unpaid charges.

37 (8) A district providing water utility service to residential
38 customers may not effect, due to lack of payment, an involuntary
39 termination of utility service to any residential user, including
40 tenants of metered apartment buildings and residents of mobile homes,

1 on any day for which the national weather service has issued or has
2 announced that it intends to issue a heat-related alert, such as an
3 excessive heat warning, a heat advisory, an excessive heat watch, or
4 a similar alert, for the area in which the residential user's address
5 is located.

6 (9) (a) A residential user at whose dwelling utility service has
7 been disconnected for lack of payment may request that the district
8 reconnect service on any day for which the national weather service
9 has issued or has announced that it intends to issue a heat-related
10 alert, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat advisory, an
11 excessive heat watch, or a similar alert, for the area in which the
12 residential user's address is located. The district shall inform all
13 customers in the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek
14 reconnection and provide clear and specific information on how to
15 make that request, including how to contact the district.

16 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
17 subsection, the district shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to
18 reconnect service to the dwelling. The district, in connection with a
19 request made pursuant to (a) of this subsection, may require the
20 residential user to enter into a payment plan prior to reconnecting
21 service to the dwelling. If the district requires the residential
22 user to enter into a repayment plan, the repayment plan must comply
23 with subsection (10) of this section.

24 (10) A repayment plan required by a district pursuant to
25 subsection (9) (b) of this section will be designed both to pay the
26 past due bill by the following May 15th, or as soon as possible after
27 May 15th if needed to maintain monthly payments that are no greater
28 than six percent of the customer's monthly income, and to pay for
29 continued utility service. The plan may not require monthly payments
30 in excess of six percent of the customer's monthly income. A customer
31 may agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but will not
32 be in default unless payment during this period is less than six
33 percent of the customer's monthly income. If assistance payments are
34 received by the customer subsequent to implementation of the plan,
35 the customer shall contact the district to reformulate the plan.

36 ~~((11) On an annual basis, each district with more than 2,500~~
37 ~~water customers in Washington must submit a report to the department~~
38 ~~of commerce that includes the total number of disconnections that~~
39 ~~occurred on each day for which the national weather service issued,~~
40 ~~or announced that it intended to issue, a heat-related alert.~~

~~Districts with fewer than 2,500 water customers in Washington must provide similar information upon request by the department.~~

~~(a) Subject to availability, each district must provide any other information related to utility disconnections that is requested by the department.~~

~~(b) The information required in this subsection must be submitted in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department.)~~

Sec. 8. RCW 80.28.010 and 2025 c 263 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) All charges made, demanded or received by any gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, water company, or thermal energy company for gas, electricity, water, or thermal energy, or for any service rendered or to be rendered in connection therewith, shall be just, fair, reasonable and sufficient. Reasonable charges necessary to cover the cost of administering the collection of voluntary donations for the purposes of supporting the development and implementation of evergreen community management plans and ordinances under RCW 80.28.300 must be deemed as prudent and necessary for the operation of a utility.

(2) Every gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, water company, and thermal energy company shall furnish and supply such service, instrumentalities and facilities as shall be safe, adequate and efficient, and in all respects just and reasonable.

(3) All rules and regulations issued by any gas company, electrical company, wastewater company, water company, or thermal energy company, affecting or pertaining to the sale or distribution of its product or service, must be just and reasonable.

(4) Utility service for residential space heating shall not be terminated between November 15 through March 15 if the customer:

(a) Notifies the utility of the inability to pay the bill. This notice should be provided within five business days of receiving a payment overdue notice unless there are extenuating circumstances. If the customer fails to notify the utility within five business days and service is terminated, the customer can, by fulfilling the requirements of this section, receive the protections of this chapter;

(b) Provides self-certification of household income for the prior twelve months to a grantee of the department of commerce, which administers federally funded energy assistance programs. The grantee

1 shall determine that the household income does not exceed the maximum
2 allowed for eligibility under the state's plan for low-income energy
3 assistance under 42 U.S.C. 8624 and shall provide a dollar figure
4 that is seven percent of household income. The grantee may verify
5 information provided in the self-certification;

6 (c) Has applied for home heating assistance from applicable
7 government and private sector organizations and certifies that any
8 assistance received will be applied to the current bill and future
9 utility bills;

10 (d) Has applied for low-income weatherization assistance to the
11 utility or other appropriate agency if such assistance is available
12 for the dwelling;

13 (e) Agrees to a payment plan and agrees to maintain the payment
14 plan. The plan will be designed both to pay the past due bill by the
15 following October 15th and to pay for continued utility service. If
16 the past due bill is not paid by the following October 15, the
17 customer is not eligible for protections under this chapter until the
18 past due bill is paid. The plan may not require monthly payments in
19 excess of seven percent of the customer's monthly income plus one-
20 twelfth of any arrearage accrued from the date application is made
21 and thereafter during November 15 through March 15. A customer may
22 agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but shall not be
23 in default unless payment during this period is less than seven
24 percent of monthly income plus one-twelfth of any arrearage accrued
25 from the date application is made and thereafter. If assistance
26 payments are received by the customer subsequent to implementation of
27 the plan, the customer shall contact the utility to reformulate the
28 plan; and

29 (f) Agrees to pay the moneys owed even if the customer moves.

30 (5) The utility shall:

31 (a) Include in any notice that an account is delinquent and that
32 service may be subject to termination, a description of the
33 customer's duties in this section;

34 (b) Assist the customer in fulfilling the requirements under this
35 section;

36 (c) Be authorized to transfer an account to a new residence when
37 a customer who has established a plan under this section moves from
38 one residence to another within the same utility service area;

39 (d) Be permitted to disconnect service if the customer fails to
40 honor the payment program except on the days indicated in subsection

1 (8) of this section. Utilities may continue to disconnect service for
2 those practices authorized by law other than for nonpayment as
3 provided for in this subsection. Customers who qualify for payment
4 plans under this section who default on their payment plans and are
5 disconnected can be reconnected and maintain the protections afforded
6 under this chapter by paying all amounts that would have been due and
7 owing under the terms of the applicable payment plan, absent default,
8 on the date on which service is reconnected; and

9 (e) Advise the customer in writing at the time it disconnects
10 service that it will restore service if the customer contacts the
11 utility and fulfills the other requirements of this section.

12 (6) A payment plan implemented under this section is consistent
13 with RCW 80.28.080.

14 (7) Every gas company, electrical company, and thermal energy
15 company shall offer residential customers the option of a budget
16 billing or equal payment plan. The budget billing or equal payment
17 plan shall be offered low-income customers eligible under the state's
18 plan for low-income energy assistance prepared in accordance with 42
19 U.S.C. 8624(C)(1) without limiting availability to certain months of
20 the year, without regard to the length of time the customer has
21 occupied the premises, and without regard to whether the customer is
22 the tenant or owner of the premises occupied.

23 (8)(a) Every electrical company, water company, and thermal
24 energy company must have and must abide by the terms of a tariff
25 approved by the commission that prohibits the electrical company,
26 water company, or thermal energy company from effecting, due to lack
27 of payment, an involuntary termination of electric, water, or thermal
28 energy utility service to any residential user, including tenants of
29 metered apartment buildings and residents of mobile homes, on any day
30 for which the national weather service has issued or has announced
31 that it intends to issue a heat-related alert, such as an excessive
32 heat warning, a heat advisory, an excessive heat watch, or a similar
33 alert, for the area in which the residential user's address is
34 located.

35 (b) Nothing in this subsection (8) limits the authority of the
36 commission to prohibit an electrical company, water company, or
37 thermal energy company from terminating electric, water, or thermal
38 energy utility service in accordance with an approved tariff, rule,
39 or order, in circumstances independent of the weather.

1 (9) (a) A residential user at whose dwelling electric, water, or
2 thermal energy utility service has been disconnected for lack of
3 payment may request that the utility reconnect service on any day for
4 which the national weather service has issued or has announced that
5 it intends to issue a heat-related alert, such as an excessive heat
6 warning, a heat advisory, an excessive heat watch, or a similar
7 alert, for the area in which the residential user's address is
8 located. The utility shall, through a process approved by the
9 commission, inform all customers in the notice of disconnection of
10 the ability to seek reconnection and provide clear and specific
11 information on how to make that request, including how to contact the
12 utility.

13 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
14 subsection, the utility shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to
15 reconnect service to the dwelling. The utility, in connection with a
16 request made pursuant to (a) of this subsection, may require the
17 residential user to enter into a payment plan prior to reconnecting
18 service to the dwelling. If the utility requires the residential user
19 to enter into a repayment plan, the repayment plan must comply with
20 subsection (10) of this section.

21 (10) A repayment plan required by a utility pursuant to
22 subsection (9) (b) of this section will be designed both to pay the
23 past due bill by the following May 15th, or as soon as possible after
24 May 15th if needed to maintain monthly payments that are no greater
25 than six percent of the customer's monthly income, and to pay for
26 continued utility service. The plan may not require monthly payments
27 in excess of six percent of the customer's monthly income. A customer
28 may agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but will not
29 be in default unless payment during this period is less than six
30 percent of the customer's monthly income. If assistance payments are
31 received by the customer subsequent to implementation of the plan,
32 the customer shall contact the utility to reformulate the plan.

33 (11) Every gas company, electrical company, wastewater company,
34 water company, and thermal energy company shall construct and
35 maintain such facilities in connection with the manufacture and
36 distribution of its product, or provision of its services, as will be
37 efficient and safe to its employees and the public.

38 (12) An agreement between the customer and the utility, whether
39 oral or written, does not waive the protections afforded under this
40 chapter.

1 (13) In establishing rates or charges for water service, water
2 companies as defined in RCW 80.04.010 may consider the achievement of
3 water conservation goals and the discouragement of wasteful water use
4 practices.

5 ~~((14) On an annual basis, each utility must submit a report to
6 the commission that includes the total number of electric, water, or
7 thermal energy disconnections that occurred on each day for which the
8 national weather service issued, or announced that it intended to
9 issue, a heat-related alert.))~~

10 (14) Each electrical company is encouraged to use any savings
11 resulting from the removal of reporting requirements in this act for
12 low-income energy assistance.

13 **Sec. 9.** RCW 87.03.015 and 2023 c 105 s 7 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) Any irrigation district, operating and maintaining an
16 irrigation system, in addition to other powers conferred by law,
17 shall have authority:

18 (a) To purchase and sell electric power to the inhabitants of the
19 irrigation district for the purposes of irrigation and domestic use;
20 to finance, acquire, construct, own, and lease dams, canals, plants,
21 transmission lines, and other power equipment and the necessary
22 property and rights therefor and to operate, improve, repair, and
23 maintain the same, for the generation and transmission of electrical
24 energy for use in the operation of pumping plants and irrigation
25 systems of the district and for sale to the inhabitants of the
26 irrigation district for the purposes of irrigation and domestic use;
27 and, as a further and separate grant of authority and in furtherance
28 of a state purpose and policy of developing hydroelectric capability
29 in connection with irrigation facilities, to construct, finance,
30 acquire, own, lease, operate, improve, repair, and maintain, alone or
31 jointly with other irrigation districts, boards of control, municipal
32 or quasi-municipal corporations or cooperatives authorized to engage
33 in the business of distributing electricity, electrical companies
34 subject to the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation
35 commission, private commercial or industrial entities that construct
36 or operate electric power generation or transmission facilities, or
37 private commercial or industrial entities that acquire electric power
38 for their own use or resale, hydroelectric facilities including but
39 not limited to dams, canals, plants, transmission lines, other power

1 equipment, and the necessary property and rights therefor, located
2 within or outside the district, for the purpose of utilizing for the
3 generation of electricity, water power made available by and as a
4 part of the irrigation water storage, conveyance, and distribution
5 facilities, waste ways, and drainage water facilities which serve
6 irrigation districts, and to sell any and all the electric energy
7 generated at any such hydroelectric facilities or the irrigation
8 district's share of such energy, to municipal or quasi-municipal
9 corporations or cooperatives authorized to engage in the business of
10 distributing electricity, electrical companies subject to the
11 jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission, private
12 commercial or industrial entities that acquire electric power for
13 their own use or resale, or other irrigation districts, and on such
14 terms and conditions as the board of directors shall determine. No
15 contract entered into under this subsection (1)(a) by the board of
16 directors of any irrigation district for the sale of electrical
17 energy from such hydroelectric facility for a period longer than
18 forty years from the date of commercial operation of such
19 hydroelectric facility shall be binding on the district until
20 ratified by a majority vote of the electors of the district at an
21 election therein, called, held, and canvassed for that purpose in the
22 same manner as that provided by law for district bond elections.

23 (b) To construct, repair, purchase, maintain, or lease a system
24 for the sale or lease of water to the owners of irrigated lands
25 within the district for domestic purposes.

26 (c) To construct, repair, purchase, lease, acquire, operate and
27 maintain a system of drains, sanitary sewers, and sewage disposal or
28 treatment plants as herein provided.

29 (d) To assume, as principal or guarantor, any indebtedness to the
30 United States under the federal reclamation laws, on account of
31 district lands.

32 (e) To maintain, repair, construct, and reconstruct ditches,
33 laterals, pipe lines, and other water conduits used or to be used in
34 carrying water for irrigation of lands located within the boundaries
35 of a city or town, or for the domestic use of the residents of a city
36 or town where the owners of land within such city or town shall use
37 such works to carry water to the boundaries of such city or town for
38 irrigation, domestic, or other purposes within such city or town, and
39 to charge to such city or town the pro rata proportion of the cost of
40 such maintenance, repair, construction, and reconstruction work in

1 proportion to the benefits received by the lands served and located
2 within the boundaries of such city or town, and if such cost is not
3 paid, then and in that event said irrigation district shall have the
4 right to prevent further water deliveries through such works to the
5 lands located within the boundaries of such city or town until such
6 charges have been paid.

7 (f) To acquire, install, and maintain as a part of the irrigation
8 district's water system the necessary water mains and fire hydrants
9 to make water available for firefighting purposes; and in addition
10 any such irrigation district shall have the authority to repair,
11 operate, and maintain such hydrants and mains.

12 (g) To enter into contracts with other irrigation districts,
13 boards of control, municipal or quasi-municipal corporations or
14 cooperatives authorized to engage in the business of distributing
15 electricity, electrical companies subject to the jurisdiction of the
16 utilities and transportation commission, private commercial or
17 industrial entities that construct or operate electric power
18 generation or transmission facilities, or private commercial or
19 industrial entities that acquire electric power for their own use or
20 resale, to jointly finance, acquire, lease, construct, own, operate,
21 improve, repair, and maintain irrigation water, domestic water,
22 drainage and sewerage works, and electrical power works to the same
23 extent as authorized by (a) of this subsection, or portions of such
24 works. If an irrigation district enters into a contract or agreement
25 under this subsection (1)(g) to create a legal entity or undertaking
26 with an investor-owned utility or a private commercial or industrial
27 entity, that contract or agreement must provide that the irrigation
28 district be severally liable only for its own acts and not jointly or
29 severally liable for the acts, omissions, or obligations of an
30 investor-owned utility or a private commercial or industrial entity.
31 No money or property supplied by any irrigation district for the
32 planning, financing, acquisition, construction, operation, or
33 maintenance of any common facility may be credited or otherwise
34 applied to the account of any investor-owned utility or private
35 commercial or industrial entity therein, nor may the undivided share
36 of any irrigation district in any common facility be charged,
37 directly or indirectly, with any debt or obligation of any investor-
38 owned utility or private commercial or industrial entity or be
39 subject to any lien as a result thereof. No action in connection with

1 a common facility may be binding upon any irrigation district unless
2 authorized or approved by resolution of its board.

3 (h) To acquire from a water-sewer district wholly within the
4 irrigation district's boundaries, by a conveyance without cost, the
5 water-sewer district's water system and to operate the same to
6 provide water for the domestic use of the irrigation district
7 residents. As a part of its acceptance of the conveyance the
8 irrigation district must agree to relieve the water-sewer district of
9 responsibility for maintenance and repair of the system. Any such
10 water-sewer district is authorized to make such a conveyance if all
11 indebtedness of the water-sewer district, except local improvement
12 district bonds, has been paid and the conveyance has been approved by
13 a majority of the water-sewer district's voters voting at a general
14 or special election.

15 (i) To approve and condition placement of hydroelectric
16 generation facilities by entities other than the district on water
17 conveyance facilities operated or maintained by the district.

18 (2) An irrigation district providing electric or water utility
19 service to residential customers may not effect, due to lack of
20 payment, an involuntary termination of utility service to any
21 residential users, including tenants of metered apartment buildings
22 and residents of mobile homes, on any day for which the national
23 weather service has issued or has announced that it intends to issue
24 a heat-related alert, such as an excessive heat warning, a heat
25 advisory, an excessive heat watch, or a similar alert, for the area
26 in which the residential user's address is located.

27 (a)(i) A residential user at whose dwelling electric or water
28 utility service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request
29 that the irrigation district reconnect service on any day for which
30 the national weather service has issued or has announced that it
31 intends to issue a heat-related alert, such as an excessive heat
32 warning, a heat advisory, an excessive heat watch, or a similar
33 alert, for the area in which the residential user's address is
34 located. The irrigation district shall inform all customers in the
35 notice of disconnection of the ability to seek reconnection and
36 provide clear and specific information on how to make that request,
37 including how to contact the irrigation district.

38 (ii) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a)(i) of this
39 subsection, the irrigation district shall promptly make a reasonable
40 attempt to reconnect service to the dwelling. The irrigation

1 district, in connection with a request made pursuant to (a)(i) of
2 this subsection, may require the residential user to enter into a
3 payment plan prior to reconnecting service to the dwelling. If the
4 irrigation district requires the residential user to enter into a
5 repayment plan, the repayment plan must comply with (b) of this
6 subsection.

7 (b) A repayment plan required by an irrigation district pursuant
8 to (a)(ii) of this subsection will be designed both to pay the past
9 due bill by the following May 15th, or as soon as possible after May
10 15th if needed to maintain monthly payments that are no greater than
11 six percent of the customer's monthly income, and to pay for
12 continued utility service. The plan may not require monthly payments
13 in excess of six percent of the customer's monthly income. A customer
14 may agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but will not
15 be in default unless payment during this period is less than six
16 percent of the customer's monthly income. If assistance payments are
17 received by the customer subsequent to implementation of the plan,
18 the customer shall contact the irrigation district to reformulate the
19 plan.

20 ~~((c) On an annual basis, each irrigation district with more than
21 25,000 retail electric customers or 2,500 water customers in
22 Washington must submit a report to the department of commerce that
23 includes the total number of disconnections that occurred on each day
24 for which the national weather service issued, or announced that it
25 intended to issue, a heat-related alert. Irrigation districts with
26 fewer than 25,000 retail electric customers or 2,500 water customers
27 in Washington must provide similar information upon request by the
28 department.~~

29 ~~(i) Subject to availability, each irrigation district must
30 provide any other information related to utility disconnections that
31 is requested by the department.~~

32 ~~(ii) The information required in this subsection (2)(c) must be
33 submitted in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the
34 department.)~~

35 (3) Each irrigation district with retail electric customers is
36 encouraged to use any savings resulting from the removal of reporting
37 requirements in this act for low-income energy assistance.

38 (4) This section shall not be construed as in any manner
39 abridging any other powers of an irrigation district conferred by
40 law.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** RCW 19.280.060 (Department's duties—
2 Report to the legislature) and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 19 s 10, 2013 c 149 s
3 4, & 2006 c 195 s 6 are each repealed.

Passed by the House February 12, 2026.

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2026.

Approved by the Governor March 23, 2026.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 23, 2026.

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