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## ORIGINAL

Bill Number:SB1281Patron:HackworthBill Title:Electric utilities; retail competition.Hackworth

**Bill Summary:** Authorizes a customer who is a customer of a Phase I Utility that had a typical residential customer bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month that exceeded 125 percent of the statewide average during the most recent calendar year to purchase electric energy from any supplier of electric energy licensed to sell retail electric energy within the Commonwealth. The bill also decreases the period that such a customer who switches from an investor-owned electric utility to a competing supplier is barred from returning as a customer of its utility from five years to 90 days.

Budget Amendment Necessary:NoItems Impacted:NoneExplanation:Not Applicable

**Fiscal Summary:** A potential fiscal impact will result if the provisions of this bill require additional rates cases for the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to review. The fiscal impact is indeterminate at this time.

General Fund Expenditure Impact: None Nongeneral Fund Expenditure Impact: None Position Impact: None

**Fiscal Analysis:** If the provision of this bill can be addressed in conjunction with a biennial review, a fiscal impact will not result. However, if the State Corporation Commission (SCC) conducts additional rate cases to evaluate the provisions of this bill, a fiscal impact will exist. In such cases the fiscal impact is indeterminant at this time.

There are several legislative proposals advancing in the 2025 Regular Session that involve a proceeding, new regulations, or direct the Commission to lead a work group or author a report. The cumulative effect of enactment of these types of proposals will exceed the capacity of Commission Staff responsible for public utility regulation and may result in the need for additional appropriations, positions, or both.

The SCC costs to implement the requirements in this bill will impact its Public Utility Fund (02080). The current rate cap authorization (58.1-2900) as approved by the General Assembly (GA) is not sufficient to generate the revenue needed for the Fund to cover the costs of this bill's requirements. However, bills HB2663 and SB1336 have been introduced in the 2025 GA session to adjust electric consumption rate caps to fund SCC existing expenses and potential new expenses from electric utility SCC oversight legislation passed during the 2025 GA

## State Corporation Commission 2025 General Assembly Session State Fiscal Impact Statement

Session. The costs associated with SB1281 can be absorbed from the revenue that would result from the passage of HB2663/SB1336.

Other: None