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**HOUSE BILL NO. 242**

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 8, 2026

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 56-247.2, relating to public utilities; multiple budget plan payment increases within 12 months prohibited; notice required.*

Patron—Cole, J.G.

Committee Referral Pending

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 56-247.2 as follows:**

**§ 56-247.2. Budget plan payment increase; notice required.**

*A. As used in this section, "budget plan" means a fixed billing option offered by a public utility to a customer whereby the total service for the succeeding 12-month period is estimated in advance and bills are rendered monthly on the basis of one-twelfth of the 12-month estimate.*

*B. No public utility shall, for any residential customer who is enrolled in a budget plan or similar billing option, increase the amount of such customer's monthly payment more than once within any 12-month period or without notifying the customer in writing at least 30 days before such increase takes effect.*

INTRODUCED

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