Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: HB1002 ER **Patron:** Tran
Bill Title: Utilities, certain; notice procedures for nonpayment.

Bill Summary: Prohibits electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities from disconnecting any residential customer due to the nonpayment of bills or fees prior to making reasonable efforts to offer bill payment assistance, arrange a payment plan, or provide information to the customer for other bill payment assistance or energy savings programs. The bill also requires each utility to provide copies of its disconnection for nonpayment policy for customers in a given locality in any language that meets the threshold for having state election materials printed in that language in that locality, when such notice is required. The bill finally directs the Department of Elections to publish a list on its website identifying localities designated as a covered locality and the minority languages in which each covered locality is required to provide voting or election materials for the purposes of identifying which localities will require materials regarding disconnection procedures pursuant to the bill; such list is directed to be posted no later than September 1, 2026, and updated as necessary to maintain accuracy.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** n/a

Fiscal Summary: Minimal/absorbable fiscal impact.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill establishes several requirements for utility companies as it relates to disconnecting utilities and required notices.

The provisions of the bill setting forth disconnection and related notification procedures for utility companies are not expected to result in a fiscal impact to state agencies. The substitute bill requires the Department of Elections (ELECT) to post on its website a list of localities designated as a covered locality and the minority languages in which each covered locality is required to provide voting or election materials for the purpose of identifying which localities will require materials regarding disconnection procedures to be distributed in additional languages pursuant to the bill. ELECT is required to post this list no later than September 1, 2026 and update such list as may be necessary. It is expected that any cost or workload impacts to ELECT associated with this requirement will be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Other: n/a