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**HOUSE BILL NO. 88**

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 4, 2010

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 56-247.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to prepaid electric service.*

Patrons—Kilgore, Cline, Gear, Hugo, Lewis, Peace and Sickles

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

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

**1. That § 56-247.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 56-247.1. Commission to require public utilities to follow certain procedures.

The Commission shall require that public utilities adhere to the following procedures:

A. Every public utility shall provide its residential customers one full billing period to pay for one month's local or basic services, before initiating any proceeding against a residential customer for nonpayment of local service.

B. Pay the residential customer a fair rate of interest as determined by the Commission on money deposited and return the deposit with the interest after not more than one year of satisfactory credit has been established.

C. Every public utility shall establish customer complaint procedures which will insure prompt and effective handling of all customer inquiries, service requests and complaints. Such procedure shall be approved by the Commission before its implementation and it shall be distributed to its residential customers.

D. No electric or gas utility shall terminate a customer's service without ~~ten~~ 10 days' notice by mail to the customer.

E. No public utility shall terminate the residential service of a customer for such customer's nonpayment of basic nonresidential services as defined by its terms and conditions on file with the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

F. Any electric utility formed under or subject to Chapter 9.1 (§ 56-231.15 et seq.) may install and operate, upon a customer's request and pursuant to an appropriate tariff filed at the Commission for any type or classification of service, a prepaid metering equipment and system that is configured to terminate electric service immediately and automatically when the customer has incurred charges for electric service equal to the customer's prepayments for such service. Subsections A, B, D, and E shall not apply to services provided pursuant to electric service provided on a prepaid basis by a prepaid metering equipment and system pursuant to this subsection.

INTRODUCED

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