

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 3179

Relating to public utilities

To:	Ways and Means Full Committee
From:	Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier:	Representative Levy

HB 3179 requires utilities to submit economic impact analyses with proposed residential rate hikes. The Public Utility Commission must consider cost trends and hardship data. Rate increases are prohibited from Nov. 1 to March 31, and some must be spaced 18 months apart through 2027. Utilities must file multiyear rate plans, publish rate breakdowns, and report annually on expected changes. The bill also expands rate recovery bond eligibility.

The amendment provides \$463,653 Other Funds to the Public Utility Commission for two positions to develop multiyear rate plan rules and assess the economic impact of residential rate increases. Funding comes from assessed annual fees on regulated utilities.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends HB 3179 be amended by the –A9 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.