

FIRST READING

MISSING

SECOND READING

MISSING

THIRD READING

MISSING

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

2 INTRODUCED BY VINCENT, HARPER, TEAGUE, DRISCOLL,
3 MELOY, PALMER
4

5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA DIRECTING THE
7 PROMULGATION OF A RULE BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
8 GOVERNING THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH A PUBLIC UTILITY MAY
9 REQUIRE A DEPOSIT TO GUARANTEE PAYMENT OF BILLS.

10
11 WHEREAS, public utilities in Montana may require
12 persons applying for utility service to post a deposit to
13 guarantee payment of bills, and

14 WHEREAS, this deposit requirement has been imposed in
15 an arbitrary and unjust manner upon persons who have not
16 been shown to be poor credit risks, and

17 WHEREAS, the public service commission has authority
18 under section 70-115 to make a rule establishing a
19 reasonable classification of customers from whom deposits to
20 guarantee payments may and may not be demanded.

21
22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
23 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

24 That, under authority of section 70-115, R.C.M. 1947,
25 the public service commission is directed to immediately

1 initiate proceedings to adopt a rule providing that a public
2 utility may require from a customer a deposit to guarantee
3 payment only ~~when--the-customer's-past-record-with-similar~~
4 ~~utilities-indicates-that-he-is-not-likely-to-pay-his-utility~~
5 ~~bills-on-time~~ UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

6 (A) WHEN THE CUSTOMER'S PAST RECORD WITH A SIMILAR
7 UTILITY INDICATES A POOR RECORD OF PAYMENT;

8 (B) WHEN A NEW CUSTOMER CANNOT SECURE A COSIGNER FOR
9 GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT; OR

10 (C) WHEN A NEW CUSTOMER CANNOT FURNISH A LETTER OF
11 GOOD CREDIT FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE, and to publish the
12 adopted rule in Title 38, chapter 14, subchapter 1 of the
13 Montana Administrative Code.

-End-

REFERENCE BILL