

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Introduced: 1/3/83

Referred to Committee on Business & industry: 1/3/83

Hearing: 1/11/83

Died in Committee

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1INTRODUCED BY JACOBSEN

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO PRESCRIBE IMMEDIATELY A CLASSIFICATION FOR ELECTRICITY RATES FOR COMMUNITIES LACKING NATURAL GAS SERVICE AND TO DESIGN RATES FOR THAT CLASSIFICATION TO ALLOW IMMEDIATE AND SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY USED FOR RESIDENTIAL SPACE HEATING AND ESSENTIAL HOME USAGE.

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission, in an effort to assure the lowest possible cost for the minimum amount of residential electric service required for subsistence of Montana citizens, created a classification resulting in an inverted rate structure, including basic "lifeline rates", that has effectively controlled electricity costs in communities where natural gas may be used as the primary space heating fuel and for certain essential home appliances; and

WHEREAS, "lifeline rates" do not benefit residents of communities where natural gas is not available and whose total charges for electricity have increased as much as 43.9% in the past year above other earlier, substantial

increases and who have no alternative to electric heat through Montana's long and frigid winters and whose electrically heated homes were constructed when electricity rates were much lower; and

WHEREAS, "lifeline rates" do not satisfy essential needs for home use where natural gas is not available; and

WHEREAS, section 69-3-306, MCA, authorizes the Public Service Commission to prescribe classifications of service to which each public utility is required to conform its schedule of rates.

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

That the Public Service Commission immediately prescribe a classification embracing electrically heated residences and essential home usage in areas where consumers lack the alternative of natural gas heating.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that electricity rates for residences in areas subject to the new classification be designed to allow immediate and substantial reduction of charges to customers using electricity for residential space heating and essential home usage.

-End-

INTRODUCED BILL

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