

HOUSE BILL 546

Introduced by Gilbert, et al.

2/10	Introduced
2/10	Referred to Business & Economic Development
2/10	First Reading
2/15	Hearing
2/16	Tabled in Committee

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 596
2 INTRODUCED BY Gilbert Smith

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE DEFINITION
5 OF PUBLIC UTILITY FOR BILLING ERROR PURPOSES; AND AMENDING
6 SECTION 69-3-221, MCA."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9 **Section 1.** Section 69-3-221, MCA, is amended to read:

10 *69-3-221. Public utility errors in billing customers.

11 (1) For the purposes of this section:

12 (a) "public utility" includes a rural electric and
13 telephone cooperative as provided in Title 35, chapter 18,
14 but does not include a municipal utility as defined in
15 chapter 7 of this title;

16 (b) a "customer billing error":

17 (i) includes any bill issued by the utility that is not
18 designated as an estimated bill and that understates the
19 amount owed by the customer;

20 (ii) includes a utility's failure to bill a customer for
21 service provided that would be billed to the customer under
22 the utility's normal billing practices;

23 (iii) excludes errors that result from the theft of
24 service by the customer;

25 (iv) excludes errors involving a utility's industrial

1 class customers; and

2 (v) excludes errors incurred in the billing of long
3 distance services by a telecommunications utility.

4 (2) Whenever a public utility discovers a customer
5 billing error, the utility may submit a bill to the customer
6 for a period not to exceed the 6 months preceding the date
7 the billing error is discovered.

8 (3) The commission may adopt rules to implement
9 subsections (1) and (2)."

-End-

-2-

HB 546
INTRODUCED BILL

