

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

LS 6487
BILL NUMBER: SB 152

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 9, 2025
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Utilities Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Hunley
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
 X DEDICATED
 X FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: *Customer Assistance Program:* This bill allows an electric or gas utility to establish a customer assistance program for qualified residential customers.

Utility Sales: It also requires the approval of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) before a public utility may sell stock, enter into certain contracts, effect a reorganization, or acquire control of another public utility. The bill also provides that if a public utility requests IURC approval of the sale, assignment, or transfer of the public utility's franchise, works, or system, the IURC shall grant a right of first refusal to: (1) a municipality in which the public utility's works or system is located; or (2) a public charitable trust; for the purchase or acquisition of the public utility's franchise, works, or system.

Recovering Lobbying Expenses: This bill also provides that the IURC may not authorize a public utility that: (1) provides retail electric or natural gas service; and (2) is under the IURC's jurisdiction for the approval of rates and charges (energy utility); to recover through the energy utility's retail rates and charges any direct or indirect costs associated with specified expenses and activities related to lobbying, legislative action, political activities, charitable giving, litigation, investor relations, and other specified activities and expenses.

Lobbying Reporting: Beginning in 2026, the bill requires a utility to file with the IURC an annual report that includes specified information concerning costs to: (1) the energy utility; or (2) an affiliate of the energy utility; that are related to these expenses or activities and that are directly billed or allocated to the energy utility. It requires the IURC to make available on the IURC's website a direct link to the annual reports provided by all energy utilities under these provisions.

Bill Breakdown: The bill provides that on any customer bill issued by an energy utility after December 31, 2026, the energy utility must include a break down of the charges and fees that make up the total amount owed, including a description of the service or cost associated with each charge or fee. It sets forth certain charges and fees that must be delineated as specific line items on each customer bill.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2026.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Customer Assistance Program:* This bill allows public, municipally-owned, cooperatively owned, and not-for-profit electricity and gas utility services to establish a customer assistance program. The Indiana Utilities Regulatory Commission's (IURC) workload will increase by reviewing energy utilities' proposed customer assistance programs rates and charges for service. This task is within the IURC's routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels.

Utility Sales: This bill increases the workload of the IURC to oversee the sale, assignment, transfer, lease, contracts, and other business transactions of utilities except in emergency cases. It also makes it so that utility reorganization which includes the change of majority stock ownership, utility mergers, or the complete purchase of one utility by another utility must be approved by the IURC. These business transactions must also take place after a hearing.

Recovering Lobbying Expenses: This bill will increase the IURC's workload in ensuring that utilities' proposed rates do not recover expenses related to lobbying and political activities.

Lobbying Reporting: The bill will also increase the workload of the IURC to (1) receive and review annual reports submitted by utilities concerning certain expenses and activities and (2) make these reports available on the Commission's website, beginning in CY 2026. Additionally, the bill could increase the workload of the IURC to ensure compliance with the requirements in the bill.

Additional Information - Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that provides a one-time annual benefit that can assist individuals with the cost of home energy. Indiana households that make 60% or less of the state median income may qualify for LIHEAP benefits.

The following table provides a list of some of the major public electric and natural gas utilities that have shared information with the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor as of December 2025. The table shows the peak count of LIHEAP eligible customers over the past 12 months and the percentage of LIHEAP beneficiaries as part of their total residential customer base.

| Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Accounts by Major Public Utility | | | | |
|--|----------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Utility | Service | Peak Month | LIHEAP Accounts | LIHEAP Percent |
| AES Indiana | Electric | August, 2025 | 16,210 | 3.7% |
| Duke Energy | Electric | December, 2024 | 12,032 | 1.5% |
| I&M Power | Electric | December, 2024 | 7,279 | 1.7% |
| NIPSCO | Electric | April, 2025 | 14,413 | 1.8% |
| NIPSCO | Gas | April, 2025 | 5,760 | 1.3% |

Explanation of State Revenues: *Customer Assistance Program:* Customer assistance programs allow customers below certain income levels to enroll in payment extensions. If there is an increase in participation in these programs, revenue the state receives from sales taxes on utility bills may be delayed.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Bill Breakdown:* Municipal utilities that do not already breakdown the components of customer bills as statute describes will have an increased workload in ensuring the bills they send to customers are compliant. This may require reformatting physical or electronic statements. Any expenditures from reformatting is expected to be negligible.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: IURC.

Local Agencies Affected: Municipal utilities.

Information Sources: November 17, 2025 Report on Large Utility Arrearage & Disconnection Data;
<https://www.in.gov/oucc/featured-topics/arrearage-and-disconnection-data-investigation/>

Fiscal Analyst: Abdul Abdulkadri, 317-232-9852.