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## **SENATE BILL No. 241**

**AM024104 has been incorporated into January 16, 2026 printing.**

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**Synopsis:** Utility service enhancement improvement costs.

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**SB 241—LS 6942/DI 101**



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January 16, 2026

Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 241

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning utilities.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 8-1-2-61.5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.229-2019,  
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 61.5. (a) An order affecting rates of service may  
4 be entered by the commission without a formal public hearing in the  
5 case of any public or municipally owned utility that:  
6 (1) either:  
7 (A) serves less than eight thousand (8,000) customers; or  
8 (B) has initiated a rate case on behalf of a single division of  
9 the utility and that division:  
10 (i) serves less than five thousand (5,000) customers;  
11 (ii) has a commission-approved schedule of rates and  
12 charges that is separate and independent from that of  
13 any other division of the utility; and  
14 (iii) itself satisfies subdivisions (2) and (3);  
15 (2) primarily provides retail service to customers; and  
16 (3) does not serve extensively another utility.  
17 (b) The commission may require a formal public hearing on any

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petition or complaint filed under this section concerning a rate change request by a utility upon the commission's own motion or upon motion of any of the following:

- (1) The utility consumer counselor.
- (2) A public or municipal corporation.
- (3) Ten (10) individuals, firms, limited liability companies, corporations, or associations.
- (4) Ten (10) complainants of any class described in this subsection.

(c) A not-for-profit water utility or a not-for-profit sewer utility must include in its petition a statement as to whether it has an outstanding indebtedness to the federal government. When an indebtedness is shown to exist, the commission shall require a formal hearing, unless the utility also has included in its filing written consent from the agency of the federal government with which the utility has outstanding indebtedness for the utility to obtain an order affecting its rates from the commission without a formal hearing.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the commission may:

- (1) on the commission's own motion; or
- (2) at the request of:
  - (A) the utility consumer counselor;
  - (B) a water or sewer utility described in subsection (a);
  - (C) ten (10) individuals, firms, limited liability companies, corporations, or associations; or
  - (D) ten (10) complainants of any class described in this subsection;

adopt a rule under IC 4-22-2, or issue an order in a specific proceeding, providing for the development, investigation, testing, and use of regulatory procedures or generic standards with respect to water or sewer utilities described in subsection (a) or their services.

(e) The commission may adopt a rule or enter an order under subsection (d) only if it finds, after notice and hearing, that the proposed regulatory procedures or standards are in the public interest and promote at least one (1) of the following:

- (1) Utility cost minimalization to the extent that a utility's quality of service or facilities are not diminished.
- (2) A more accurate evaluation by the commission of a utility's physical or financial conditions or needs.
- (3) A less costly regulatory procedure for a utility, its consumers, or the commission.
- (4) Increased utility management efficiency that is beneficial to

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consumers.

**(5) Economic development opportunities in rural areas (as defined in section 89(a)(3) of this chapter) while providing just and reasonable protections to a utility's existing ratepayers.**

SECTION 2. IC 8-1-2-101.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 101.7. (a) As used in this section, "authority" refers to the Indiana housing and community development authority created by IC 5-20-1-3.

(b) As used in this section, "capacity related fee" has the meaning set forth in section 101.6 of this chapter.

(c) As used in this section, "eligible customer" means a not-for-profit organization that is subject to IC 23-17 and is recognized as tax exempt under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that:

(1) has entered into an agreement:

(A) with the authority; and

(B) under which the person will construct workforce housing in Indiana; and

(2) seeks to connect the workforce housing described in subdivision (1) to the water or wastewater system of a utility under the terms of a special contract with the utility under subsection (g) or (h).

(d) As used in this section, "tap fee" has the meaning set forth in section 101.6 of this chapter.

(e) As used in this section, "utility" means a:

(1) public utility (as defined in section 1(a) of this chapter);

(2) municipally owned utility (as defined in section 1(h) of this chapter), including a sewer utility operated under IC 36-9-23 or IC 36-9-25;

(3) not-for-profit utility (as defined in section 125(a) of this chapter), including a utility company owned, operated, or held in trust by a consolidated city;

(4) cooperatively owned corporation;

(5) conservancy district established under IC 14-33; or

(6) regional district established under IC 13-26;

that provides water service or wastewater service, or both, to the public, regardless of whether the entity described in subdivisions (1) through (6) is under the jurisdiction of the commission for the approval of rates and charges with respect to the water service or wastewater service that is provided.

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(f) As used in this section, "workforce housing" means a single family dwelling or duplex that is:

(1) constructed for a household with an income, adjusted by family size, that is less than the area median income, as published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(2) offered for sale or lease to a household described in subdivision (1) for a monthly amount that represents not more than thirty percent (30%) of the household's monthly income; and

(3) located in reasonable proximity to employment.

The term does not include an apartment building, a multi-family development other than a duplex, or any other building that is not described in subdivision (1) or (2).

(g) Subject to subsection (i) and notwithstanding any law or rule governing the extension of service or the imposition of capacity related fees or tap fees, a utility may not charge or collect a capacity related fee or a tap fee to an eligible customer for connecting workforce housing to the utility's water or wastewater system:

(1) to the extent that the extension of service to the workforce housing to be connected will result in a positive contribution to the utility's overall cost of service over a twenty (20) year period; and

(2) if the terms and conditions of the connection are set forth in a special contract executed by the eligible customer and the utility.

(h) Subject to subsection (i) and notwithstanding any law or rule governing the extension of service or the imposition of capacity related fees or tap fees, if a utility determines that the extension of service to workforce housing at the request of an eligible entity will not result in a positive contribution to the utility's overall cost of service over a twenty (20) year period, the utility may charge and collect from the eligible customer, under terms and conditions agreed to under a special contract between the utility and the eligible customer, a capacity related fee or a tap fee that does not exceed the difference between:

(1) the capacity related fee or tap fee that would otherwise apply in connecting the workforce housing to the utility's water or wastewater system; minus

(2) the contribution to the utility's overall cost of service over a twenty (20) year period that will result from the extension



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of service to the workforce housing.

(i) A utility may apply discretion with respect to the number of special contracts that it enters into with eligible customers under subsection (g) or (h) at any given time, so as to ensure that any costs associated with such special contracts are not unreasonably subsidized by other customers of the utility.

(j) The:

(1) exemption from a capacity related fee or a tap fee under subsection (g); or

(2) reduction in a capacity related fee or a tap fee under subsection (h);

is not discriminatory for purposes of this chapter or any other law regulating rates and charges for service.

SECTION 3. IC 8-1-2.7-1.3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.78-2007, SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1.3. (a) This chapter applies to the following:

(1) A public utility established to provide water service that is:  
 (A) privately owned and serves less than three hundred (300) customers;  
 (B) a not-for-profit utility (as defined by IC 8-1-2-125(a));  
 (C) a cooperative corporation exempt from state and federal income taxation; or  
 (D) a conservancy district established under IC 14-33-2 that:

(i) has as a purpose of the district the provision of a water supply, including the treatment and distribution of water, for domestic, industrial, and public use; and  
 (ii) provides water service to less than ~~two~~ **three** thousand ~~(2,000)~~ **(3,000)** customers.

(2) A public utility established to provide sewage disposal service (as defined in IC 8-1-2-89(a)(1)) that holds a certificate of territorial authority as required by IC 8-1-2-89, and that is:

(A) privately owned and serves less than three hundred (300) customers;  
 (B) a not-for-profit utility (as defined in IC 8-1-2-125(a));  
 or  
 (C) a cooperative corporation exempt from state and federal income taxation.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (b), a legal entity providing only sewage treatment service to a not-for-profit sewage disposal company.

(b) Subsection (a)(3) does not include a sewage treatment provider

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that is otherwise subject to the commission's jurisdiction.

SECTION 4. IC 8-1-31.7-7, AS ADDED BY P.L.137-2020, SECTION 15, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "service enhancement improvement" means an expenditure that is either of the following:

(1) Made, or to be made, by an eligible utility and related to:

(A) direct or indirect compliance with one (1) or more requirements; or

(B) installation of a new plant or equipment:

(i) that is not a replacement plant or equipment; and

(ii) that the commission determines is reasonable and appropriate to further health, safety, or environmental protection for the eligible utility's customers, employees, or the public.

(2) ~~Replacement of a plant or equipment~~ **Any of the following that are made, or to be made, or incurred, or to be incurred,** to maintain existing health, safety, or environmental protection for the eligible utility's customers, employees, or the public:

(A) **Replacement of a plant or equipment.**

(B) **Subject to section 9.1 of this chapter, chemical costs recorded in:**

(i) **Account 618; or**

(ii) **Account 718;**

**of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Uniform System of Accounts as adopted by the commission under 170 IAC 6-2-2.**

(C) **Subject to section 9.1 of this chapter, power costs recorded in:**

(i) **Account 615; or**

(ii) **Account 715;**

**of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Uniform System of Accounts as adopted by the commission under 170 IAC 6-2-2.**

SECTION 5. IC 8-1-31.7-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.100-2023, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9. (a) Except as provided in subsection (e), before an eligible utility may seek to recover its service enhancement improvement costs through a periodic rate adjustment under section 12 of this chapter, it must first obtain preapproval from the commission of its plan for the proposed service enhancement improvement or improvements. The eligible utility must file with the commission a petition and a case in chief, including supporting information described

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in section 10 or 11 of this chapter, as applicable. If the petition includes a request for an allocation of costs under IC 8-1-30.3-6.5, the eligible utility shall provide a copy of:

- (1) the petition; and
- (2) the eligible utility's case in chief;

to each intervenor in the eligible utility's last general rate case.

(b) After holding a public hearing for which proper notice is given under IC 8-1-1-8, the commission shall preapprove the eligible utility's plan under this section if the commission makes the required findings under section 10 or 11 of this chapter, as applicable. If the service enhancement improvement is not described in section 7(1)(A) of this chapter, the commission shall preapprove the eligible utility's plan under this section if the commission makes the required finding under section 7(1)(B)(ii) of this chapter.

(c) The commission shall issue its final order on the petition not later than two hundred ten (210) days after the filing of the eligible utility's case in chief.

(d) An eligible utility may have more than one (1) plan, and an eligible utility may file separate petitions for separate plans.

(e) An eligible utility is not required to seek preapproval of a plan in order to seek recovery under section 12 of this chapter for:

- (1) ~~eligible additions~~ service enhancement improvements** that are described in section ~~7(2)~~ 7(2)(A) of this chapter; **or**
- (2) costs that are described in section 7(2)(B) or 7(2)(C) of this chapter.**

**(f) This subsection does not apply to an adjustment rider under section 12 of this chapter for the recovery of costs described in section 7(2)(B) or 7(2)(C) of this chapter.** If the commission approves an eligible utility's plan under this section, or if approval is otherwise not required, the commission shall approve a rider authorizing timely recovery of the eligible utility's service enhancement improvement costs under section 12 of this chapter. The following apply to the utility's timely recovery:

- (1) Eighty percent (80%) of the eligible utility's service enhancement improvement costs shall be recovered by the eligible utility through a periodic rate adjustment mechanism that allows the timely recovery of the approved service enhancement improvement costs.
- (2) Twenty percent (20%) of the eligible utility's service enhancement improvement costs, including depreciation, allowance for funds used during construction, and post in service carrying costs, compounded monthly and based on the overall





cost of capital most recently approved by the commission, shall be deferred and recovered by the eligible utility as part of its next general rate case filed by the eligible utility with the commission.

(3) Actual costs that exceed by more than twenty-five percent (25%) the projected costs set forth in the eligible utility's plan approved under this section require specific justification by the eligible utility and specific approval by the commission before being authorized in the next general rate case filed by the eligible utility with the commission.

SECTION 6. IC 8-1-31.7-9.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 9.1. (a) This section applies to the recalculation of costs described in section 7(2)(B) and 7(2)(C) of this chapter for purposes of an adjustment rider under section 12 of this chapter.**

**(b) Chemical costs described in section 7(2)(B) of this chapter may be recalculated as follows:**

**(1) If:**

**(A) at least two (2) years have elapsed since the date of the commission's most recent order adjusting the basic rates and charges of an eligible utility; and**

**(B) the average actual annual cost of chemicals has increased or decreased by at least three percent (3%) over the course of the two (2) year period described in subdivision (2);**

**the eligible utility may submit for the commission's review supporting documentation of the average actual annual cost of chemicals for the two (2) year period described in subdivision (2), as calculated under subdivision (2), along with documentation of how the average annual cost of chemicals over that period differs from the amount currently being collected for chemicals through the eligible utility's rates. However, if the average actual annual cost of chemicals has not changed or has increased or decreased by less than three percent (3%) over the course of the two (2) year period described in subdivision (2), an eligible utility may not seek an adjustment to the eligible utility's recovery of chemical costs under this section.**

**(2) If the eligible utility has determined that the average actual annual cost of chemicals has increased or decreased by at least three percent (3%) over the course of the two (2)**



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year period described in this subdivision, the eligible utility shall include in its submission under this subsection a calculation of the average actual annual cost of chemicals for the two (2) year period described in this subdivision, along with a comparison of that cost to the amount currently being collected for chemicals through the eligible utility's rates, as follows:

**STEP ONE:** Calculate the actual cost of chemicals during the two (2) year period immediately preceding the date of the eligible utility's submission under this subsection by adding together the actual annual cost of chemicals in each year of the two (2) year period.

**STEP TWO:** Calculate the quotient of the STEP ONE amount divided by two (2). This quotient is the average actual annual cost of chemicals for the two (2) years immediately preceding the eligible utility's submission under this subsection.

**STEP THREE:** Calculate the difference between:

(i) the STEP TWO result; minus

(ii) the amount currently being collected for chemicals through the eligible utility's rates on an annual basis, as authorized in the commission's most recent base rate order for the eligible utility, and adjusted to reflect the change in volume from the volume level authorized in the commission's most recent base rate order. The authorized chemical costs in the commission's most recent base rate order shall be divided by the number of gallons projected to be sold in the commission's most recent base rate order to impute an original cost of chemicals per gallon of water sold per unit cost. This per unit cost shall be multiplied by the projected number of gallons of water to be sold by the eligible utility over the twelve (12) month period of the adjustment rider under section 12 of this chapter to impute an adjusted cost of chemicals from the most recent base rate case.

(3) If the STEP THREE result under subdivision (2) is a positive number, the amount of the STEP THREE result shall be included in the adjustment rider under section 12 of this chapter as an expense in calculating an adjustment to the rider.



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(4) If the STEP THREE result under subdivision (2) is a negative number, the amount of the STEP THREE result shall be included in the adjustment rider under section 12 of this chapter as a credit in calculating an adjustment to the rider.

(c) Power costs described in section 7(2)(C) of this chapter may be recalculated as follows:

(1) If:

(A) at least two (2) years have elapsed since the date of the commission's most recent order adjusting the basic rates and charges of an eligible utility; and

(B) the average actual annual cost of power has increased or decreased by at least three percent (3%) over the course of the two (2) year period described in subdivision (2);

the eligible utility may submit for the commission's review supporting documentation of the average actual annual cost of power for the two (2) year period described in subdivision (2), as calculated under subdivision (2), along with documentation of how the average annual cost of power over that period differs from the amount currently being collected for power through the eligible utility's rates. However, if the average actual annual cost of power has not changed or has increased or decreased by less than three percent (3%) over the course of the two (2) year period described in subdivision (2), an eligible utility may not seek an adjustment to the eligible utility's recovery of power costs under this section.

(2) If the eligible utility has determined that the average actual annual cost of power has increased or decreased by at least three percent (3%) over the course of the two (2) year period described in this subdivision, the eligible utility shall include in its submission under this subsection a calculation of the average actual annual cost of power for the two (2) year period described in this subdivision, along with a comparison of that cost to the amount currently being collected for power through the eligible utility's rates, as follows:

STEP ONE: Calculate the actual cost of power during the two (2) year period immediately preceding the date of the eligible utility's submission under this subsection by adding together the actual annual cost of power in each year of the two (2) year period.

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**STEP TWO:** Calculate the quotient of the STEP ONE amount divided by two (2). This quotient is the average actual annual cost of power for the two (2) years immediately preceding the eligible utility's submission under this subsection.

**STEP THREE:** Calculate the difference between:

- (i) the STEP TWO result; minus
- (ii) the amount currently being collected for power through the eligible utility's rates on an annual basis, as authorized in the commission's most recent base rate order for the eligible utility, and adjusted to reflect the change in volume from the volume level authorized in the commission's most recent base rate order. The authorized power costs in the commission's most recent base rate order shall be divided by the number of gallons projected to be sold in the commission's most recent base rate order to impute an original cost of power per gallon of water sold per unit cost. This per unit cost shall be multiplied by the projected number of gallons of water to be sold by the eligible utility over the twelve (12) month period of the adjustment rider under section 12 of this chapter to impute an adjusted cost of power from the most recent base rate case.

(3) If the STEP THREE result under subdivision (2) is a positive number, the amount of the STEP THREE result shall be included in the adjustment rider under section 12 of this chapter as an expense in calculating an adjustment to the rider.

(4) If the STEP THREE result under subdivision (2) is a negative number, the amount of the STEP THREE result shall be included in the adjustment rider under section 12 of this chapter as a credit in calculating an adjustment to the rider.

SECTION 7. IC 8-1-31.7-9.2 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 9.2. (a) This section applies to an eligible utility for which the commission has issued an order under section 12 of this chapter to approve an adjustment rider for the recovery of costs described in section 7(2)(B) or 7(2)(C) of this chapter, as calculated under section 9.1 of this chapter.

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(b) An eligible utility to which this section applies shall file a petition for a change in its adjustment amount:

(1) not later than thirty (30) days after the end of each twelve (12) month period after the date on which the commission issued the order under section 12 of this chapter approving the adjustment rider; and

(2) until the commission issues an order in the eligible utility's next general rate case.

(c) Upon filing a petition with the commission under subsection (b), an eligible utility shall serve a copy of the petition on the office of utility consumer counselor.

(d) The commission shall hold a hearing and issue an order on the petition not later than sixty (60) days after the date the petition is filed.

SECTION 8. IC 8-1-31.7-12, AS ADDED BY P.L.137-2020, SECTION 15, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 12. (a) If the commission approves an eligible utility's plan under section 9 of this chapter, or if commission approval of the plan is otherwise not required, the eligible utility may file a petition to establish or adjust an adjustment rider to its rate schedules under this section so as to allow timely recovery of the eligible utility's service enhancement improvement costs. The following shall apply:

(1) The adjustment rider shall be calculated as a fixed charge based upon equivalent meter size.

(2) Publication of notice of the filing is not required.

**For purposes of this section, the timely recovery of costs for a municipally owned utility or a not-for-profit utility shall be in a manner consistent with IC 8-1-31-8(a)(3).**

(b) Except as provided in subsection (i), the adjustment rider shall provide for the timely recovery of eighty percent (80%) of the service enhancement improvement costs. The remaining twenty percent (20%) of the service enhancement improvement costs shall be deferred under section 9(f)(2) of this chapter.

(c) The commission shall conduct a hearing.

(d) The office of the utility consumer counselor may:

(1) examine information of the eligible utility to confirm:

(A) that the eligible additions are in accordance with sections 2 and 8 of this chapter, **as applicable**; and

(B) the proper calculation of the adjustment amount proposed under this section **or section 9.1 of this chapter, as applicable**; and

(2) submit a report to the commission not later than thirty (30)

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- 1 days after the petition is filed.
- 2 (e) Except as provided in subsection (h), the commission shall
- 3 hold the hearing and issue its order not later than sixty (60) days after
- 4 the petition is filed.
- 5 (f) Except as provided in subsection (h), the commission shall
- 6 enter an order approving a petition filed under this section to the extent
- 7 the commission finds that the petition complies with the requirements
- 8 of this chapter.
- 9 (g) A petition filed under this section may combine one (1) or
- 10 more of the following:
- 11 (1) Service enhancement improvement costs associated with one
- 12 (1) or more plans approved under section 9 of this chapter.
- 13 (2) Service enhancement improvement costs for which approval
- 14 of a plan is not required under this chapter.
- 15 (h) If a petition filed under this section seeks recovery of service
- 16 enhancement improvement costs associated with eligible additions
- 17 made in association with service enhancement improvements described
- 18 in section ~~7(2)~~ **7(2)(A)** of this chapter:
- 19 (1) the commission shall create a sub-docket to consider the
- 20 service enhancement improvement costs if the petition combines
- 21 the service enhancement improvement costs with service
- 22 enhancement improvement costs associated with approved plans
- 23 under section 7(1)(A) or 7(1)(B) of this chapter;
- 24 (2) to approve recovery of the service enhancement improvement
- 25 costs associated with service enhancement improvements
- 26 described in section ~~7(2)~~ **7(2)(A)** of this chapter, the commission
- 27 must find that the service enhancement improvements described
- 28 in section ~~7(2)~~ **7(2)(A)** of this chapter are reasonable and
- 29 necessary; and
- 30 (3) the time period for issuance of an order under subsection (e)
- 31 is extended to one hundred twenty (120) days with respect to the
- 32 service enhancement improvement costs associated with service
- 33 enhancement improvements described in section ~~7(2)~~ **7(2)(A)** of
- 34 this chapter.
- 35 **(i) An adjustment rider under this section for the recovery of**
- 36 **costs described in section 7(2)(B) or 7(2)(C) of this chapter shall**
- 37 **provide for the timely recovery of those costs in full and without**
- 38 **the deferral otherwise required under subsection (b).**
- 39 SECTION 9. IC 8-1-31.7-18, AS ADDED BY P.L.137-2020,
- 40 SECTION 15, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
- 41 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 18. **Except as provided in section 9.2 of this**
- 42 **chapter**, an eligible utility may, but is not required to, file a petition for

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1 a change in its initial adjustment amount not more than one (1) time in  
2 every twelve (12) months. Section 12 of this chapter applies to a  
3 petition to change an adjustment rider.

4 SECTION 10. **An emergency is declared for this act.**

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