A BILL FOR AN ACT

Concerning a requirement that energy utilities disclose costs associated with customers' utility bills.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries.)

The bill declares that utility customers have a right to transparency in their utility bills, and therefore requires investor-owned gas and electric utilities to include in customer billing communications, at least 4 times per year, information about:

For electric utilities, the types of fuels used to generate
electricity, the percentage of the utility's electricity attributable to each, the load profile for each, and the total cost of generating electricity per kilowatt-hour for each fuel type;

For gas and electric utilities, all ancillary costs associated with providing gas or electricity to the customer, including the costs of underground natural gas storage, natural gas pipeline expansions, and new electric transmission infrastructure.

The bill specifies that the utilities' costs of revising the format of their current utility bills to provide the additional information may be recovered through rates.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Article 2 of title 40, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended by the addition of a new section to read:

40-2-130. Utility bills - cost transparency - disclosures to customers. (1) The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that all Coloradans have the right to transparency in their utility rates, including disclosure of all costs associated with the bills they pay for energy and how much each energy source affects their total bill.

(2) Each investor-owned public utility providing retail gas or electric service in Colorado shall disclose to each of its customers at least four times per year, in printed bills or billing inserts or, for customers who have opted for electronic billing communications, in electronic billing communications, the most recent available information concerning:

(a) For electric service, the types of fuel used by the utility to generate electricity, the percentage of the utility's electricity generation that is attributable to each fuel type, the load profile for each fuel type, and the utility's total
GENERATION COST PER KILOWATT-HOUR FOR EACH FUEL TYPE. THE COST
CALCULATION MUST INCLUDE ALL ANCILLARY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
EACH FUEL TYPE, INCLUDING THE COSTS OF UNDERGROUND NATURAL GAS
STORAGE, NATURAL GAS PIPELINE EXPANSIONS, AND NEW ELECTRIC
TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE.

(b) FOR NATURAL GAS SERVICE, THE COST PER THOUSAND CUBIC
FEET OF GAS UNDER THE UTILITY’S SUPPLY CONTRACTS AND ALL
ANCILLARY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROVIDING THE GAS TO THE
CUSTOMER, INCLUDING THE COSTS OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE AND
PIPELINE EXPANSIONS.

(3) A UTILITY’S COSTS OF REVISING THE FORMAT OF ITS BILLS TO
INCLUDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION MAY BE
RECOVERED THROUGH RATES.

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act
shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
10, 2011, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2011); except that, if a
referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
within such period, then the act, item, section, or part shall not take effect
unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
November 2012 and shall take effect on the date of the official
declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.