

1 H.641

2 Introduced by Representative Browning of Arlington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Utilities; smart meters; customer rights

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the public service board to
7 establish terms and conditions governing the installation of wireless smart
8 meters. The terms and conditions shall require an electric company to obtain a
9 customer's written consent before installing a wireless smart meter on his or
10 her property. The terms and conditions also shall require an electric company
11 to remove, at no cost to the customer, an already installed wireless smart
12 meter, if so requested by a customer.

13 An act relating to customer rights regarding smart meters

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 2811 is added to read:

16 § 2811. SMART METERS; CUSTOMER RIGHTS

17 (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following

18 meanings:

1 (1) “Wired smart meter” means an advanced metering infrastructure
2 analog device using a fixed wire for two-way communication between the
3 device and an electric company.

4 (2) “Wireless smart meter” means an advanced metering infrastructure
5 device using radio or other wireless means for two-way communication
6 between the device and an electric company.

7 (b) An electric company may install a wireless smart meter only in a
8 manner consistent with terms and conditions approved by the board. Upon
9 petition by an electric company, the board shall open a proceeding to establish
10 the terms and conditions under which the company may install wireless smart
11 meters. The terms and conditions shall include provisions requiring an electric
12 company to obtain a customer’s written consent prior to the installation of a
13 wireless smart meter on his or her property. The provisions also shall specify
14 that a customer has the option of having a wired smart meter installed as an
15 alternative to the wireless smart meter at no additional cost; and shall further
16 provide that in no event shall a customer who chooses not to have a wireless
17 smart meter installed bear any additional monthly or other charges for that
18 decision.

19 Sec. 2. INSTALLED SMART METERS

20 If an electric company has installed a wireless smart meter, as defined in
21 30 V.S.A. § 2811(a)(2), prior to the effective date of this act, the public service

1 board shall open a proceeding to establish terms and conditions governing any
2 further installation of wireless smart meters by that company consistent with
3 the requirements of 30 V.S.A. § 2811(b). The board also shall establish, in the
4 same proceeding, procedures by which a customer who has an installed
5 wireless smart meter may, at no cost to that customer, have the wireless smart
6 meter removed and replaced with a meter that does not use wireless
7 technology.

8 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on passage.