

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 577
Apr 14, 2021
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30277-LM-65A

Short Title: Utilities Customers' Right of Refusal Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Pittman.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT PROHIBITING A PUBLIC UTILITY FROM INSTALLING A SMART METER OR
3 ANY OTHER DEVICE THAT ALLOWS THE UTILITY TO CONTROL A CUSTOMER'S
4 UTILITY USAGE WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING THE CUSTOMER'S SIGNED
5 WRITTEN CONSENT.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Article 7 of Chapter 62 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
8 a new section to read as follows:

9 "**§ 62-159.3. Use of smart meters prohibited without signed written consent.**

10 No utility company shall install in or on a customer's residence or business premises a smart
11 meter or any other device that allows the utility company to control the customer's usage of the
12 utility provided by the company unless the utility company first obtains the customer's written
13 consent to the installation, which shall be indicated by the customer's signature. Any utility
14 company that installs a smart meter or other device without the express written consent of the
15 customer, including the customer's signature, shall be liable for any damages to the customer's
16 property or any harm to any person that may result from the installation of the smart meter or
17 other device. The customer's signature indicating consent to the installation of a smart meter or
18 other device shall relieve the utility from any liability resulting from the installation. If a retail
19 utility customer chooses not to have a smart meter installed, or to have an existing smart meter
20 removed, the utility company shall not charge the customer any fee for choosing not to have the
21 smart meter in their home or place of business."

22 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to the installation
23 of a smart meter or any other device that controls a customer's usage of a utility that occurs on or
24 after that date.

