

1 SENATE BILL NO. 10

2 INTRODUCED BY J. KEANE

3 BY REQUEST OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN NATURAL GAS UTILITIES FROM THE
6 REQUIREMENTS OF A UNIVERSAL SYSTEM BENEFITS PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 69-3-1408, MCA;
7 AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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11 **Section 1.** Section 69-3-1408, MCA, is amended to read:12 **"69-3-1408. Universal system benefits programs -- establishing nonbypassable rate -- exemption.**

13 (1) ~~A~~ Except as provided in subsection (4), a natural gas utility shall implement, upon commission approval and
14 subject to ongoing commission oversight and direction, a universal system benefits program.

15 (2) ~~The~~ Except as provided in subsection (4), the commission shall establish a universal system benefits
16 charge that ~~all~~ natural gas transmission services providers or ~~all~~ distribution services providers, or both, in the
17 state of Montana shall charge to all end-use customers, taking into consideration the current level of expenditure
18 by the natural gas utility, cost-effectiveness, and similar costs imposed in other states. The charge may be
19 established and revised through a universal system benefits charge tracking procedure. The method of assessing
20 the charge may not disproportionately burden a large transmission services provider's customers. Within the
21 universal system benefits charge, beginning January 1, 2007, a natural gas utility's minimum annual funding
22 requirement for low-income weatherization and low-income energy bill assistance is established at 0.42% of a
23 natural gas utility's annual revenue for the previous year. A natural gas utility must receive credit for its internal
24 programs or activities that qualify as universal system benefits programs.

25 (3) ~~A~~ Except as provided in subsection (4), a natural gas utility shall file an annual report of its universal
26 system benefits charges, programs, and program funding levels with the commission in a manner prescribed by
27 the commission.

28 (4) A natural gas utility that serves 200 or fewer customers is exempt from the requirements of
29 subsections (1) through (3)."

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1 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Saving clause.** [This act] does not affect rights and duties that matured,
2 penalties that were incurred, or proceedings that were begun before [the effective date of this act].

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4 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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6 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Retroactive applicability.** [This act] applies retroactively, within the
7 meaning of 1-2-109, to the compliance year beginning January 1, 2015.

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