

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 85
By Buck

A RESOLUTION to request the Utility Management Review Board to form a committee to study the issue of common meter reading and billing among electrical, gas and water utilities.

WHEREAS, the citizens of this state typically receive numerous bills, notices and other correspondence as a normal consequence of living in a modern, vibrant technological society; and

WHEREAS, an ability to organize and prioritize are essential to successfully keeping abreast of bills due and household budgeting and, in general, managing one's household; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has a responsibility to do all in its power to eliminate unnecessary complications for the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans are typically consumers of two and sometimes three utilities, water, electricity, and gas; and

WHEREAS, for most citizens of this state, billing comes from separate entities, each of which employs its own meter reader; and

WHEREAS, modern data processing technology would seem to provide an avenue for cooperation among utility providers, with the end of developing a common meter-reading system and unified billing for all utilities to each customer; and

WHEREAS, such a common system would be of great assistance to utility consumers by relieving them of the necessity of dealing with multiple utility bills and thereby simplifying management of their household budgets; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly requests the Utility Management Review Board to form a committee to study the feasibility of creating a system of common meter reading and billing among the electric, gas and water utility providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be of such size as may be necessary to secure an appropriate balance among the geographical regions of the state, among the electric, gas and water utility providers, and among public and private utility providers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That members of the committee shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed according to the state travel regulations as promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General and Reporter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the committee shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any proposed legislation to effectuate those recommendations, to the Utility Management Review Board and to the General Assembly no later than February 15, 2000, after which time the committee shall cease to exist.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be sent to the Utility Management Review Board.