



H.B. 300

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Rep. Seaver

BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits a natural gas utility from providing for actual, company readings of customer meters less often than once every two months.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill establishes a prohibition against providing for actual, company readings of natural gas customer meters less often than once every two months. The prohibition applies to natural gas companies that are public utilities, which, under existing law unchanged by the bill, generally include any for-profit or not-for-profit businesses supplying natural gas for lighting, power, or heating purposes to end use consumers in Ohio, but exclude certain producers or gatherers of Ohio-produced gas, municipal operations, or operations owned and operated exclusively by and solely for their customers (secs. 4905.02 and 4905.03).

Remedies of existing law that would apply to a violation of the bill's prohibition include the assessment by the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) of a forfeiture of up to \$1,000 per violation (sec. 4905.54), authority for the PUCO to seek a mandamus order or injunction (sec. 4905.60), and authority for an injured party to seek treble damages if the PUCO has found a violation (sec. 4905.61).

Under current law, there is a legal requirement of an annual meter reading. The requirement was established by a PUCO order issued in a complaint case (*In the Matter of the Complaint of Marcella Fallucco, Complainant, v. The East Ohio Gas Company, Respondent*, Case No. 84-361-GA-CSS (June 4, 1985; rehearing denied July 23, 1985)). This annual meter reading requirement is included in each natural gas utility's tariff filing with the PUCO. Reportedly, some natural gas utilities serving rural customers may read meters only once a year, but most as a matter of practice read meters every two months.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	06-14-01	p. 667
H0300-I.124/jc		