



## **S.B. 217**

126th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Sens. Schuring, Padgett, Grendell, Fedor**

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Requires a natural gas company, per a customer's request, to read the customer's meter monthly from November through April.
- Alternatively, requires a natural gas company to accept a customer-submitted meter reading from November through April if the customer uses an agreed-to and verifiable method of meter reading.

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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

Currently, a public utility natural gas company<sup>1</sup> must read a retail customer's meter on a yearly basis, pursuant to a Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) order issued in a complaint case.<sup>2</sup> Each natural gas company's tariff filing with the PUCO includes this requirement. Reportedly, some natural gas companies serving rural customers may read meters only once a year, but most companies as a matter of practice read meters every two months.

The bill requires a public utility natural gas company to read a retail customer's meter monthly during the months of November through April, if the customer so requests. Alternatively, the bill requires the company to accept a

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<sup>1</sup> *Meaning, any for-profit or not-for-profit business supplying natural gas for lighting, power, or heating purposes to Ohio consumers, but excluding certain producers or gatherers of Ohio-produced gas, municipal operations, or operations owned and operated exclusively by and solely for their customers (R.C. 4905.02 and 4905.03, not in the bill).*

<sup>2</sup> *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.*

customer-reported meter reading during those months if the customer uses a verifiable method agreed to by the company (R.C. 4905.76).

The same available remedies that apply to a violation under current law apply to a violation of the bill: forfeiture to the State of Ohio of up to \$10,000 per violation per day, a mandamus order or injunction requested by the PUCO, and, under a private action subsequent to a PUCO finding of a violation, recovery of treble damages by an injured customer (R.C. 4905.54, 4905.55, 4905.60, and 4905.61, not in the bill).

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## **HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	10-27-05

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