

HB 1534 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2569

06/08

HOUSE BILL **1534**

AN ACT relative to utility default service.

SPONSORS: Rep. Cormen, Graf. 15; Rep. Caplan, Merr. 8; Rep. Darby, Hills. 11; Rep. McGhee, Hills. 35; Rep. Muns, Rock. 29; Rep. W. Thomas, Hills. 12

COMMITTEE: Science, Technology and Energy

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ANALYSIS

This bill clarifies certain policy principles regarding electric utility default service, including default service rates and recovery for over- or under- collection.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

AN ACT relative to utility default service.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1       1 Electric Utility Restructuring; Restructuring Policy Principles; Universal Service. Amend  
2 374-F:3, V(c) to read as follows:

3           (c) **Utility** default service should be designed to provide a safety net and to assure  
4 universal access and system integrity, **minimize customer risk, not unduly harm the**  
5 **development of competitive markets, and mitigate against price volatility without creating**  
6 **new deferred costs.** **Utility** default service should be procured through the competitive market and  
7 may be administered by independent third parties. Any prudently incurred costs arising from  
8 compliance with the renewable portfolio standards of RSA 362-F for **utility** default service or  
9 [~~purchased power agreements~~] **purchases of power, capacity, and ancillary services to serve**  
10 **utility default service** shall be recovered through [the] default service [charge] **charges.** **To the**  
11 **extent that there are separate utility default service rates, the costs to serve customers on**  
12 **those separate default service rates, including any prior period under- or over- collections,**  
13 **shall be recovered through the respective future default service rates as approved by the**  
14 **commission.** The allocation of the costs of administering default service should be borne by the  
15 customers of default service in a manner approved by the commission. If the commission determines  
16 it to be in the public interest, the commission may implement measures to discourage misuse, or  
17 long-term use, of default service. Revenues, if any, generated from such measures should be used to  
18 defray stranded costs.

19       2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.