WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4661

By Delegate E. Pritt
[Introduced January 12, 2024; Referred
to the Committee on Technology and Infrastructure then Finance]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §24-2J-1, relating to requiring all public and private utility systems that are granted rate increases to set aside 5% of these funds for repairs and improvements to the physical utility infrastructure; establishing limitations on the use of these funds; prohibiting passing this cost on to the consumers.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

Article 2J. infrastructure improvement fund.

§24-2J-1. Infrastructure Improvement Fund; rate increases; requirements; limitations.

(a) As a condition of all future utility rate increases, if an increase is granted to a private or public utility system by the West Virginia Public Service Commission, 5% of all individually billed new percentage increase charges on all existing or future customer accounts must be set aside by the utility into an "infrastructure improvement" fund;

(1) This fund cannot be used for routine maintenance;

(2) This fund must be used for physical utility infrastructure (i.e., water lines, electrical transmission lines, treatments facilities, power generation substations, power plants themselves, etc.);

(b) This cost cannot be passed on to the consumer through any category of fees or through future rate increases;

(c) This fund can only be utilized for new utility infrastructure improvement projects.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create an infrastructure fund that will be made from 5% from every rate increase granted to public and private utilities that is to be used for infrastructure repairs and improvements.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.