

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2989

By Delegates Dillon and White

[Introduced February 26, 2025; referred to the
Committee on Energy and Public Works]

1 A BILL to amend the code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article,
 2 designated §24-2J-1 and §24-2J-2, relating to requiring that all electricity providers give
 3 their customers a choice in the style of meter installed on their homes, businesses, or
 4 rental units.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2J. ELECTRICAL METER CHOICE.

§24-2J-1. Legislative findings.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that consumer choice is a fundamental aspect of the free
 2 enterprise economic system upon which our system functions.

3 (b) The Legislature finds that many citizens have voiced concern and displeasure
 4 regarding their lack of choice regarding the type of electrical meter installed on their property by
 5 the servicing utility.

6 (c) The Legislature finds that citizens' concerns regarding certain types of electrical
 7 meters, commonly referred to as "Smart Meters", include radiation emissions, fire risks, data
 8 security, and other concerns which have not been adequately addressed, and that these concerns
 9 bolster citizens' assertions that more choice is necessary regarding such meters.

§24-2J-2. Meter choice requirements.

1 (a) Electrical utilities must provide customers with the option to deny installation of a "smart
 2 meter" in favor of an electrical meter which is read manually, does not contain a battery, and does
 3 not emit an electromagnetic signal.

4 (b) Incidental electromagnetic radiation emitted by the natural process of electricity flowing
 5 through the meter as part of the electricity supplied to the customer shall not constitute an
 6 electromagnetic signal under this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require that all electricity providers give their customers a choice between the smart meters and manually read meters that are installed on their homes, businesses, or rental units.

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