

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2381**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Roger Hernández**

February 18, 2016

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An act to add Section 740.13 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to electricity.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2381, as introduced, Roger Hernández. Electricity: power outages: bill credits.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. Existing law authorizes the commission to fix the rates and charges for every public utility and requires that those rates and charges be just and reasonable.

This bill would require electrical corporations to provide customers that experience outages for a continuous 24-hour period with a \$25 bill credit for each 24-hour period that they were without power.

Under existing law, a violation of the Public Utilities Act or any order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the commission is a crime.

Because the provisions of this bill would be a part of the act and because a violation of an order or decision of the commission implementing its requirements would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program by creating a new crime.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 740.13 is added to the Public Utilities  
2 Code, to read:

3 740.13. (a) An electrical corporation shall provide each  
4 customer that experiences an outage for a continuous 24-hour  
5 period a twenty-five-dollar (\$25) bill credit for each 24-hour period  
6 that the customer is without power.

7 (b) Any expense incurred pursuant to this section shall not be  
8 recoverable either directly or indirectly in rates and shall be borne  
9 exclusively by the shareholders of the electrical corporation.

10 (c) The bill credit provided by this section is not an exclusive  
11 remedy and does not affect any other relief or remedy provided  
12 by law.

13 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
14 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
15 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
16 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
17 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
18 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
19 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
20 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
21 Constitution.