



**Senate Bill No. 469**

**Special Act No. 19-15**

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO STUDY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND MINIMUM STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT LEVELS FOR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall conduct a study regarding (1) industry-specific standards for acceptable performance by an electric distribution company in an emergency, and (2) minimum staffing and equipment levels for each electric distribution company that operates in the state, based on the number of customers served by such electric distribution company and the nature of the infrastructure deployed to serve such electric distribution company's customers in an emergency in which more than ten per cent of such electric distribution company's customers are without service for more than forty-eight consecutive hours. Such study shall include, for each electric distribution company that operates in the state, a review of (A) the current practices concerning service restoration after an emergency, which shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of each electric distribution company's (i) estimates concerning potential damage and service outages prior to any emergency, (ii) damage and service outage assessments after any emergency, (iii) restoration management after

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any emergency, including, but not limited to, access to alternate restoration resources through regional and reciprocal aid contracts, (iv) plans for at-risk and vulnerable customers, (v) policies concerning communication with state and local officials and customers, including, but not limited to, individual customer restoration estimates and the timeliness and usefulness of such estimates, and (vi) need for mutual assistance during any emergency, (B) the adequacy of the electric distribution company's infrastructure, facilities and equipment, which shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of whether such electric distribution company (i) is following standard industry practice for the operation and maintenance of such infrastructure, facilities and equipment, and (ii) has access to adequate replacement equipment for such infrastructure, facilities and equipment during the course of such emergency, (C) any current policies and procedures for coordination efforts between the electric distribution company and any telecommunications company, community antenna television company, holder of a certificate of cable franchise authority or certified competitive video service provider, including, but not limited to, coordinated planning before any emergency, (D) any other policy, practice or information that the authority determines is relevant to the review of the electric distribution company's ability to ensure the reliability of such electric distribution company's services in an emergency and to prevent, minimize and restore any service outages or disruptions that last for more than forty-eight consecutive hours caused by such emergency, and (E) the staffing and equipment levels related to the restoration of electric service after a service outage of the electric distribution company from January 1, 1990, to the present, provided the authority may review such levels for additional years, and provided that such review shall include a review of the number of line crew workers and shall distinguish between (i) line crew workers directly employed by the electric distribution company and working full time within the state, (ii) line crew workers directly employed by the electric distribution company working primarily in another state,

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and (iii) line crew workers hired as contractors or subcontractors.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, shall report the results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology.

Approved July 8, 2019