AN ACT REQUIRING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH 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. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) As used in this section, "electric distribution company", "telecommunications company", "community antenna television company", "certificate of cable franchise authority" and "certified competitive video service provider" have the same meaning as provided in section 16-1 of the general statutes.

(b) On or before July 1, 2019, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate a docket to establish:

(1) Industry specific standards for acceptable performance by an electric distribution company in an emergency. Such standards shall be designed to protect public health and safety, ensure the reliability of the electric distribution company's services, prevent service outages and disruptions, minimize the number of service outages and
disruptions that do occur, reduce the duration of any such service 
outages and disruptions and facilitate restoration of service after any 
such service outages and disruptions. In establishing such standards, 
the authority shall review for each electric distribution company that 
operates in the state:

(A) The current practices concerning service restoration after an 
emergency. Such review 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 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. Such review 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.

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

(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 staffing levels shall include separate specific minimums for staff who (A) are directly employed by the electric distribution company and working full time within the state, provided such minimum shall not be less than ninety-five per cent of the historic maximum level of such workers as determined by the authority pursuant to subparagraph (E) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, (B) are directly employed by the electric distribution company but work primarily in another state, and (C) are employed as contractors or subcontractors.

(c) Each electric distribution company operating in the state shall
provide the authority with any information the authority requests to conduct the docket initiated pursuant to this section, provided any such requests or disclosure of information does not violate any other state or federal law.

(d) On or before January 1, 2020, the authority shall issue a final decision in the docket initiated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Such decision shall include a summary and any findings from the authority’s review of the items in subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section. The authority shall submit such final decision, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy.

(e) The authority may from time to time, on its own motion, open a docket to revise the minimum staffing and equipment levels established pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, pursuant to the requirements of the general statutes and this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| Section 1 | from passage | New section |

Statement of Purpose:
To require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to initiate and issue a final decision in a docket to establish standards for acceptable performance and minimum staffing and equipment levels for electric distribution companies.

Co-Sponsors: SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33rd Dist.; SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.; SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. ABRAMS, 13th Dist.; SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.
SEN. KUSHNER, 24th Dist.; SEN. HASKELL, 26th Dist.
SEN. BERGSTEIN, 36th Dist.; SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.
SEN. LEONE, 27th Dist.

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