

Unofficial Draft Copy

As of: April 26, 2018 (11:24am)

LCGAS3

**** Bill No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the *****

Bill draft for discussion purposes only

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act requiring the public service commission to conduct a study of natural gas customer choice in Montana; providing study criteria; providing deadlines; providing an appropriation; and providing an effective date."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Natural gas customer choice study.

(1) The public service commission shall conduct a study of natural gas customer choice.

(2) The commission shall consider the following factors to determine the impact of natural gas customer choice in Montana:

(a) measurable rate impacts to customers of natural gas utilities that are allowing customer choice on a single integrated multistate operation, no portion of which lies within the basin of the Columbia River, resulting from customer choice;

(b) financial impacts to Montana natural gas utilities, resulting from customer choice;

(c) prevalence of customer choice related consumer protection cases; and

(d) the effectiveness of current Montana customer choice consumer protection standards.

(3) The commission shall work with Montana utilities, to the

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extent possible, to meet the requirements of subsection (2).

(4) The study shall provide findings and recommendations, if any, to existing law.

(5) The commission shall report its findings to the energy and telecommunications interim committee on or before July 31, 2020.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$1,000 from the general fund to the public service commission for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, to carry out the purposes of [section 1].

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2019.

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