

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 20-0841.02 Jennifer Berman x3286

**HOUSE BILL 20-1225**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Weissman,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**  
Energy & Environment

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING CLARIFICATION OF THE REQUIREMENT OF**  
102                    **REASONABLENESS IN CHARGES IMPOSED BY ONE COOPERATIVE**  
103                    **ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION UPON ANOTHER.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill:

!      Declares that the jurisdiction of the Colorado public utilities commission does and traditionally has always been understood to extend to the determination of just and reasonable rates by all public utilities; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

! Explicitly states that the terms and conditions imposed by one cooperative electric association on another regarding the installation, interconnection, and use of energy storage systems must be just and reasonable.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The General  
3 Assembly finds and determines that:

4 (a) Article XXV of the Colorado Constitution vests "all power to  
5 regulate the facilities, service and rates and charges" of public utilities in  
6 the public utilities commission;

7 (b) Since at least 1913, the laws of Colorado have directed the  
8 public utilities commission to "prevent unjust...rates, charges, and tariffs"  
9 of public utilities;

10 (c) The Colorado Supreme Court has held that "the Commission  
11 possesses not only the power and authority, but also the duty to prescribe  
12 the rates of all utilities subject to its jurisdiction";

13 (d) Since at least 1944, United States Supreme Court cases have  
14 emphasized that utility rates must be "just and reasonable", regardless of  
15 the specific methodology by which rates are established; and

16 (e) The public utilities commission has previously determined that  
17 it possesses jurisdiction to adjudicate a complaint concerning just and  
18 reasonable "exit" charges assessed by a wholesale electric cooperative  
19 against a retail electric cooperative.

20 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that the purpose of  
21 this act is to further clarify and affirm the long-standing authority of the  
22 Colorado public utilities commission to adjudicate complaints concerning  
23 public utilities subject to its jurisdiction.

1           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-1-102, **add** (1.3)  
2 as follows:

3           **40-1-102. Definitions.** As used in articles 1 to 7 of this title 40,  
4 unless the context otherwise requires:

5           (1.3) "CHARGE" INCLUDES ANY CONSIDERATION, HOWEVER  
6 DENOMINATED, PAID OR PROVIDED BY A RETAIL COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC  
7 ASSOCIATION TO A WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IN CONNECTION  
8 WITH AN AGREEMENT BY WHICH THE RETAIL COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC  
9 ASSOCIATION TERMINATES A WHOLESALE ELECTRIC SERVICE CONTRACT  
10 WITH THE WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.

11           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 40-2-136 as  
12 follows:

13           **40-2-136. Energy storage systems - terms and conditions for**  
14 **installation, interconnection, and use by cooperatives - legislative**  
15 **declaration - definitions.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND  
16 DETERMINES THAT:

17           (I) CARDINAL PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC  
18 ASSOCIATIONS INCLUDE DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL, AUTONOMY,  
19 AND INDEPENDENCE; AND

20           (II) RAPIDLY EVOLVING TECHNOLOGIES IN GENERATION, ENERGY  
21 STORAGE, AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT OFFER COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC  
22 ASSOCIATIONS A VARIETY OF OPTIONS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR  
23 MEMBERS RELIABLY.

24           (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT:

25           (I) IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO LIMIT BARRIERS TO THE  
26 INSTALLATION, INTERCONNECTION, AND USE OF ENERGY STORAGE  
27 SYSTEMS BY COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATIONS IN COLORADO; AND

1 (II) COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATIONS IN COLORADO SHOULD  
2 BE ABLE TO INSTALL, INTERCONNECT, AND USE ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS  
3 THAT ARE CONNECTED TO THE COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION'S  
4 ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AND WILL NOT, AT ANY TIME, FLOW ONTO THE  
5 TRANSMISSION FACILITIES OF A WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE OR  
6 OTHER THIRD PARTY WITHOUT PRIOR AGREEMENT AS PART OF MEETING  
7 THEIR MEMBERS' NEEDS FOR RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE ENERGY WITHOUT  
8 UNFAIR OR DISCRIMINATORY RATES OR FEES.

9 (2) A WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SHALL NOT SUBJECT  
10 THE INSTALLATION, INTERCONNECTION, OR USE OF AN ENERGY STORAGE  
11 SYSTEM BY A RETAIL COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION TO ANY  
12 UNJUST, UNREASONABLE, DISCRIMINATORY, OR PREFERENTIAL CHARGE,  
13 CLASSIFICATION, CONTRACT, FARE, FEE, PRACTICE, RATE, REGULATION,  
14 RULE, SCHEDULE, SERVICE, OR TOLL.

15 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
16 REQUIRES:

17 (a) "COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION" MEANS A NONPROFIT  
18 ELECTRIC CORPORATION OR ASSOCIATION OTHER THAN A WHOLESALE  
19 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.

20 (b) "ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN  
21 SECTION 40-2-202 (2).

22 (c) "WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE" MEANS ANY  
23 GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
24 THAT PROVIDES WHOLESALE ELECTRIC SERVICE DIRECTLY TO  
25 COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATIONS.

26 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-3-101, **add (3)** as  
27 follows:

1           **40-3-101. Reasonable charges - adequate service.** (3) (a) IF A  
2 RETAIL COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
3 PAYMENT OF AN APPLICABLE CHARGE, WITHDRAWS FROM MEMBERSHIP IN  
4 A WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 40-2-136  
5 (3)(c), THAT WITHDRAWAL IS DEEMED TO BE A MATTER OF STATEWIDE  
6 CONCERN, AND, IN RELATION TO SUCH WITHDRAWAL:

7           (I) THE WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WILL ACT IN  
8 ACCORDANCE WITH THE OBLIGATION OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING  
9 IN IMPLEMENTING THE WITHDRAWAL AND SHALL NOT REQUIRE OR IMPOSE  
10 COMMERCIALY UNREASONABLE CONTRACTUAL TERMS ON THE RETAIL  
11 COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION IN RELATION TO THE WITHDRAWAL;  
12 AND

13           (II) THE WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SHALL, UPON  
14 REQUEST FROM THE WITHDRAWING RETAIL COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC  
15 ASSOCIATION, FACILITATE THE RETAIL COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC  
16 ASSOCIATION'S TRANSITION FROM NATIVE LOAD TO A FIRM SERVICE  
17 TRANSMISSION CUSTOMER WITHOUT DIMINISHING THE WITHDRAWING  
18 RETAIL COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION'S NATIVE ELECTRIC LOAD  
19 PRIORITY FOR ACCESSING FIRM TRANSMISSION CAPACITY.

20           (b) THE COMMISSION HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ADJUDICATE  
21 COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE TERMS ON WHICH A WHOLESALE ELECTRIC  
22 COOPERATIVE IMPLEMENTS WITHDRAWAL PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION  
23 (3).

24           **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
25 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.