

HOUSE BILL NO. 1473

Introduced by

Representatives Warner, Mahoney, Sveen, Wardner

Senator Thompson

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for the establishment of a public utilities consumer advocacy
2 division to review certain public utility rates and to advocate on the behalf of residential and
3 small business public utilities consumers.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. Public utilities consumer advocacy division.**

- 6 1. The public utilities consumer advocacy division is a division of the public service
7 commission. The division shall review public utility rates in this state and shall
8 advocate on the behalf of residential and small business public utility consumers in
9 this state. The commission shall obtain any assistance necessary to perform the
10 functions of the division, including any expert help necessary to review public utility
11 rates.
- 12 2. For the purpose of funding the division, the commission shall assess a fee equal to
13 one dollar per year for each service account of the utility to each electric, gas, and
14 telecommunications utility company that is doing business in this state and is under
15 any rulemaking or decisionmaking authority of the commission.
- 16 3. Subsection 2 does not apply to any public utility owned and operated by the state
17 or any political subdivision of the state; any public utility that is not operated for
18 profit; any nonprofit, cooperative, or mutual telecommunications company having
19 fewer than eight thousand local exchange subscribers; any electric cooperative
20 corporation, rural electric cooperative, or local electric cooperative; or any mutual
21 aid cooperative or cooperative association.