

SENATE BILL 2232

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5;
Title 6; Title 7; Title 8; Title 65 and Title 68, relative
to utility metering.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 65, is amended by adding the following
as a new chapter:

65-16-101.

As used in this section:

(1) "Electromechanical analog meter" or "analog meter" means a purely electric and mechanical device that does not use electronic components, a switch mode power supply, a transmitter or antenna, or radio frequency emissions;

(2) "Equivalent technology" means a utility meter that communicates data using wired or wireless frequencies, but which may be undisclosed due to proprietary rights;

(3) "Smart meter":

(A) Means a transmitting utility meter with electronic components, or an electric or battery-operated meter, that is capable of measuring, recording, and sending data through a wired or wireless signal from a utility customer to the utility through one-way communication, two-way communication, or a combination thereof, either through the utility meter itself or through a device that is ancillary to the utility meter; and

(B) Includes equivalent technology; and

(4) "Utility" means:

(A) An entity subject to the jurisdiction of the Tennessee board of utility regulation, in accordance with § 7-82-701;

(B) A cooperative, as defined in § 65-25-102; or

(C) A county-owned or municipality-owned utility that provides electric, natural gas, or water and wastewater services to the public.

65-16-102.

(a) A utility shall obtain written consent from the owner of a residential property or commercial property for which the utility provides service before the utility installs a smart meter for the property. If the property owner does not provide consent to the installation of a smart meter and a utility meter needs to be installed, the utility must offer the property owner installation of an analog meter.

(b) If a property already has a smart meter installed on it, then a utility must obtain written confirmation from the owner of the property that the owner consents to the continued presence and use of the smart meter. If the owner requests that the smart meter be removed and a utility meter needs to be installed to replace the smart meter, then the utility must offer the property owner installation of an analog meter. The written confirmation required by this subsection (b) must be obtained no later than January 1, 2025.

(c) A utility shall not charge a property owner, or a tenant residing in or utilizing the property owner's property, additional fees based on a property owner's decision made pursuant to subsection (a) or (b).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.