

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Electronic filing of Public Utilities Commission documents

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Overview

House File 1678 amends language in chapter 216 governing the administrative practices of the Public Utilities Commission to allow for electronic service, notice and filing of documents in commission proceedings, as a consequence of the commission's implementing its e-filing system through legislation enacted in 2005 (Laws 2005, chapter 97, article 6).

Section

- 1 **216.15 Answer and reply.** Allows an answer to an order to be filed by a respondent by personal delivery or via the commission's electronic filing system, in addition to filing by mail.
- 2 **216.17 Notices and orders; filings; service.**

Subd. 1. Commission notices and orders; signature. Allows the secretary to the commission to sign orders and notices by electronic signing.

Subd. 2. Service of notice, order, or other document from commission. Allows service by personal delivery and electronic service of all commission documents. The commission may provide electronic service to any person who has provided it with an electronic address.

Subd. 3. Filings with commission; manner of filing. Requires all utilities, telecommunications companies, telephone companies, and state agencies to file documents with the commission electronically beginning January 1, 2008. Other

Section

participants may file electronically or use other methods.

Subd. 4. Service by a party, participant, or other interested person. Provides that when service of a document is required by statute or rule, a party may make service electronically only upon persons on the service list who have previously agreed to receive service electronically and have provided an electronic address.

3 **216.18 Power to subpoena witnesses and documents.** Strikes the word "papers" and inserts the word "documents" with respect to items the commission may require to be produced in a hearing or investigation.

4 **216B.18 Service of notice.** Allows service of notice of all proceedings to be done electronically.

5 **216B.26 Order; effective date.** Provides that commission orders and determinations may be served electronically.

6 **216B.33 Commission ruling, written, filed, and certified.** Stipulates that all commission orders, findings, authorizations, and certificates issued by the commission under section 216B must be retained in the commission's official record system.

7 **Assessing all public utilities.** Provides that assessments of utilities may be billed via mail, personal delivery or electronically.

8 **Objections.** Strikes "mailing" and inserts "transmittal."

9 **Administrative hearing costs.** Strikes "mailed" and inserts "transmitted."

10 **Interest on assessment.** Strikes "mailing" and inserts "transmittal."

11 **Annual hearing.** Allows notice of the commission's annual public hearing to be served electronically.

12 **Assessment of regulatory expense.**

Subd. 2. Assessment of costs. Allows the commission and department to send a quarterly bill assessing utilities by personal delivery or electronic service, in addition to mailing it.

Subd. 3. Objection. Strikes "mailing" and inserts "transmittal."

Subd. 4. Interest imposed. Strikes "mailing" and inserts "transmittal."

Subd. 5. Administrative hearing costs; appropriation. Strikes "mailed" and inserts "transmitted."

Subd. 6. Extended area service balloting account; appropriation. Strikes an expired statutory reference.