



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

# SENATE BILL 452: Utilities/User Responsible for Utility Bill.

2021-2022 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Agriculture, Energy, and Environment. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	April 27, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sen. Johnson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jennifer McGinnis Committee Counsel
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		

**OVERVIEW:** Senate Bill 452 would amend current law governing debt collection practices of a public utility, electric membership corporation, and telephone membership corporation to prohibit such entities from billing any person or company for service provided to a household or business location that the person or company does not own, lease, or occupy.

### CURRENT LAW:

Existing law:

- Prohibits a public utility, an electric membership corporation, a telephone membership corporation, and a city or county that operate a public enterprise from suspending or disconnecting service to an individual due to the debt of another person who resides with the customer unless one or more of the following apply:
  - The customer and the other person were members of the same household at a different location when the unpaid balance for service was incurred.
  - The person was a member of the customer's current household at the time service was established and the person had an unpaid balance for service at that time.
  - The person seeks to have his or her name placed on the customer's account. *(This exception is not applicable to cities or counties.)*
- Prohibits a public utility, an electric membership corporation, a telephone membership corporation, and a city or county that operate a public enterprise from requiring a customer to assume the debt of another person who will reside in the customer's household in order to continue service unless one of the following apply:
  - The customer and the other person were members of the same household at a different location.
  - The person was a member of the customer's current household at the time service was established.

A public utility, an electric membership corporation, a telephone membership corporation, and a city or county that operate a public enterprise are not prohibited, however, from using any remedy to collect a debt if a customer misrepresents his or her identity to receive service.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The bill would prohibit a public utility, electric membership corporation, and telephone membership corporation from billing any person or company for service provided to a household or business location that the person or company does not own, lease, or occupy. The prohibition

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would apply notwithstanding any agreement between the person or company and the entity providing service to reconnect service to the household or business location during the time the person or company owned, occupied, or leased the property.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would be effective when it becomes law.