

SENATE, No. 4811

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator PARKER SPACE
District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits public utilities from imposing surcharge on certain payment transactions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning public utility payment transactions and
2 supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. a. As used in this section:

8 “Public utility” means the same as that term is defined in
9 R.S.48:2-13.

10 “Surcharge” means an additional amount imposed by a public
11 utility at the time of a payment transaction that increases a charge to
12 a public utility customer to recover the cost of the public utility’s
13 use of third-party payment processing services.

14 b. A public utility shall not impose a surcharge on any public
15 utility customer who has not enrolled in automatic payments
16 through the public utility and, instead, has elected to make an
17 alternative form of payment to the public utility for services
18 rendered to that customer by the public utility. Alternative forms of
19 payment shall include one-time payments made by a public utility
20 customer via:

- 21 (1) an online credit card transaction;
22 (2) an online debit card transaction;
23 (3) an automated telephone system; or
24 (4) a direct withdrawal from the customer’s bank account.

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26 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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31 This bill prohibits a public utility from imposing a surcharge on
32 any public utility customer who has not enrolled in automatic
33 payments through the public utility and, instead, has elected to
34 make an alternative form of payment to the public utility for
35 services rendered to that customer by the public utility. Alternative
36 forms of payment are to include one-time payments made by a
37 public utility customer via: (1) an online credit card transaction; (2)
38 an online debit card transaction; (3) an automated telephone system;
39 or (4) a direct withdrawal from the customer’s bank account. Under
40 the bill, “surcharge” means an additional amount imposed by a
41 public utility at the time of a payment transaction that increases a
42 charge to a public utility customer to recover the cost of the public
43 utility’s use of third-party payment processing services.