



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4514

Introduced 1/26/2026, by Rep. Nabeela Syed

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

220 ILCS 5/9-226.5 new

Amends the Public Utilities Act. Provides that, for any general rate increase requested by a gas, electric, water, or sewer public utility under the provisions of the Act, the Commission shall hold at least one public hearing during which members of the public can provide input on the requested general rate increase. Provides that any affected ratepayer of a requested general rate increase may testify at the public hearing and may file statements that pertain to the subject matter of the public hearing with the person or persons conducting the public hearing. Provides that a public hearing shall be held in the service territory of the public utility that requested a general rate increase at a time and location to be determined by the Commission. Requires the Commission to comply with certain requirements when determining the location of a public hearing. Provides that the Commission shall provide reasonable notice that complies with the Open Meetings Act to members of the public regarding a public hearing. Provides that "reasonable notice" means notice that is provided at least 14 days before a public hearing. Provides that public hearings shall be conducted by the full Commission, a single commissioner, or an administrative law judge from the Commission. Provides that the Commission shall take into consideration any testimony or comments received from members of the public during the public hearing in its deliberations on the requested general rate increase. Makes other changes.

LRB104 17067 AAS 30482 b

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Public Utilities Act is amended by adding
5 Section 9-226.5 as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 5/9-226.5 new)

7 Sec. 9-226.5. General rate increase requests; public
8 hearings.

9 (a) For any general rate increase requested by a gas,
10 electric, water, or sewer public utility under the provisions
11 of this Act, the Commission shall hold at least one public
12 hearing during which members of the public can provide input
13 on the requested general rate increase. Members of the public
14 may use a telephone or electronic conferencing to attend the
15 public hearing as long as the public hearing is conducted in
16 accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

17 (b) Any affected ratepayer of a requested general rate
18 increase may testify at the public hearing and may file
19 statements regarding the subject matter of the public hearing
20 with the person or persons conducting the public hearing. Any
21 testimony or filed statements shall become part of the
22 evidentiary record for the Commission's proceedings for the
23 requested general rate increase. The Commission shall give

1 each member of the public a reasonable amount of time to
2 testify and be heard by the Commission at the public hearing.
3 The Commission shall give an intervenor or a representative of
4 an intervenor the same amount of time for presentation as the
5 Commission gives to the public utility that requested the
6 general rate increase.

7 (c) A public hearing under this Section shall be held in
8 the service territory of the public utility that requested the
9 general rate increase at a time and location to be determined
10 by the Commission. In determining the location of the public
11 hearing, the Commission shall comply with the following
12 requirements:

13 (1) The public hearing shall be located in a city that
14 is within the service territory of the public utility and
15 that has a high population density for that service
16 territory.

17 (2) The Commission shall consider the ability of
18 members of the public to attend the public hearing and the
19 ease of access, including the availability of public
20 transit, to the area where the public hearing will be
21 held.

22 (d) The Commission shall provide reasonable notice that
23 complies with the Open Meetings Act to the public and to each
24 customer of the applicable public utility regarding a public
25 hearing under this Section. For the purposes of this
26 subsection (d), "reasonable notice" means notice that is

1 provided at least 14 days before a public hearing.

2 (e) Public hearings shall be conducted by the full
3 Commission, a single commissioner, or an administrative law
4 judge from the Commission. The Commission shall take into
5 consideration any testimony or comments received from members
6 of the public during a public hearing in its deliberations on
7 the requested general rate increase and shall include its
8 consideration of the public hearing as part of the formal
9 record of the proceeding for the requested general rate
10 increase. In each general rate case, the final order of the
11 Commission shall include findings that describe how the
12 Commission's decision was impacted by the testimony and
13 comments received from members of the public during the public
14 hearing.