

1 AN ACT concerning public utilities.

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 Sections 8-501.5, 8-505.5, and 9-245 as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 5/8-501.5 new)

7 Sec. 8-501.5. Employees and independent contractors;  
8 background checks.

9 (a) Before hiring an employee or independent contractor  
10 to perform work involving facilities used for the  
11 distribution of natural gas to customers, a public utility  
12 shall, in accordance with Commission rules, require the  
13 proposed employee or independent contractor to complete a  
14 certificate listing the proposed employee's or contractor's  
15 violations of pertinent safety or environmental laws.

16 (b) The Commission shall adopt rules establishing the  
17 requirements for the certificates referred to in subsection  
18 (a).

19 (220 ILCS 5/8-505.5 new)

20 Sec. 8-505.5. Work on natural gas regulator or  
21 manometer. The Commission shall require, under such rules as  
22 it may prescribe, a public utility that is performing work on  
23 a natural gas regulator or manometer containing mercury that  
24 is used to provide natural gas service to test the immediate  
25 area around the regulator or manometer for mercury before and  
26 after work is performed using testing instruments of the type  
27 approved by the Commission. Copies of the test results, if  
28 requested, shall be provided to the occupant or owner of the  
29 property upon which the regulator or manometer is located at  
30 the time the work is performed. The test results shall be

1 available for inspection by the Commission.

2 (220 ILCS 5/9-245 new)

3 Sec. 9-245. Rates; environmental fines and remediation.

4 In determining the rates for a public utility engaged in  
5 providing natural gas service, the Commission may not include  
6 any expenditure for fines or remediation and related  
7 activities incurred as a result of mercury spills associated  
8 with gas pressure regulators, manometers, or any other  
9 devices containing mercury in the utility's system. Any  
10 related insurance or third party recoveries must also be  
11 excluded for ratemaking purposes.

12 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
13 becoming law.