
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2021 Assembly Bill 27

Assembly Amendment 2

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 27

2021 Assembly Bill 27 makes various changes to statutes administered by the Public Service Commission (PSC). Additionally, the bill requires investor-owned energy utilities to provide funding for a consumer advocate, defined in the bill as the Citizen's Utility Board.¹ For brevity, this memorandum only addresses the impacts of the bill and of Assembly Amendment 2 on the procedure for collecting past-due PSC assessments.

Under current law, the PSC is required to collect assessments from public utilities, power districts, sewerage systems, and joint local water authorities to cover expenses incurred by the PSC as a result of its various regulatory duties. If an assessed entity fails to pay a PSC bill within 30 days, or fails to file objections to the bill, current law requires the PSC to follow a debt collection procedure involving the Department of Administration (DOA).²

2021 Assembly Bill 27 eliminates language in current law that directs the PSC to collect past-due assessments through a DOA procedure. The bill instead directs the PSC to collect these assessments in accordance with procedures established by the commission.

Assembly Amendment 2

Assembly Amendment 2 eliminates the bill's provision modifying the PSC's debt collection procedure, maintaining the procedure under current law involving DOA.

BILL HISTORY

Representative Petersen offered Assembly Amendment 2 on March 3, 2021. On the same day, the Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities recommended adoption of the amendment by a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 0. The bill was then recommended for passage, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 0.

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¹ The Citizen's Utility Board was established by the Legislature in 1979. It was subsequently dissolved and reorganized as a nonstock, nonprofit corporation in 1986.

² DOA has not established a procedure for collecting past-due assessments for the PSC. In practice, the PSC has implemented its own procedure for collecting past-due assessments.