

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5306

To amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to consider the effects of Commission-jurisdictional rates on the affordability of electricity for consumers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2026

Mr. BLUMENTHAL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to consider the effects of Commission-jurisdictional rates on the affordability of electricity for consumers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Affordable Electricity
5 Rates Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTS OF RATES ON CON-**
 2 **SUMER AFFORDABILITY.**

3 Section 201 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C.
 4 824) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(h) AFFORDABILITY AS A COMPONENT OF JUST
 6 AND REASONABLE RATES.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In making any determina-
 8 tion of whether a rate or charge is just and reason-
 9 able under this part, the Commission shall—

10 “(A) consider whether the rate or charge is
 11 likely to result in retail electricity prices that
 12 are unaffordable for electric consumers (as de-
 13 fined in section 3 of the Public Utility Regu-
 14 latory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2602));
 15 and

16 “(B) presume that the rate or charge is
 17 likely to result in retail electricity prices that
 18 are unaffordable for electric consumers (as so
 19 defined) if the Commission determines that the
 20 rate or charge is likely to result in an increase
 21 in retail electricity prices of 5 percent or more.

22 “(2) UNAFFORDABLE RATES AND CHARGES
 23 PROHIBITED.—If the Commission determines under
 24 paragraph (1) that a rate or charge is likely to re-
 25 sult in retail electricity prices that are unaffordable
 26 for electric consumers (as defined in section 3 of the

1 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16
2 U.S.C. 2602)), such rate or charge shall not be con-
3 sidered to be just and reasonable for purposes of
4 this part.”.

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