

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

H. B. No. 970

Representative Tims

To enact section 4909.183 of the Revised Code to 1
prevent the public utilities commission from 2
approving public utility rate increases for 3
twelve months and to declare an emergency. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 4909.183 of the Revised Code be 5
enacted to read as follows: 6

Sec. 4909.183. (A) As used in this section, "public 7
utility" means an entity defined in section 4905.03 of the 8
Revised Code that is a public utility under section 4905.02 of 9
the Revised Code. 10

(B) For a period of twelve months beginning on the 11
effective date of this section, the public utilities commission 12
shall not approve any application, rate, or rider filed by any 13
public utility that would result in the increase in rates or 14
rider collections. This moratorium applies only to filings for 15
requests that have not received final approval by the public 16
utilities commission prior to the effective date of this 17
section. Approved rates and riders in effect on or before the 18
effective date of this section shall remain in effect and may be 19
charged and collected. 20

(C) The moratorium imposed under this section does not 21
apply to any rate or rider imposed or collected as required by 22
federal law. 23

Section 2. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 24
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 25
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to 26
immediately shelter Ohio consumers from additional rate 27
increases. Ratepayers need both temporary and long-term relief 28
as Ohio faces an ongoing affordability crisis. Therefore, this 29
act shall go into immediate effect. 30