

Representative Stephen E. Sandstrom proposes the following substitute bill:

UTILITY COSTS OF DEPLOYED

SERVICEMEMBERS

2007 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Stephen E. Sandstrom

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill provides for the payment or waiver of utility charges for deployed servicemembers.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- provides for payment of a portion of deployed servicemembers' utility charges by the Division of Veterans' Affairs; and
- provides for the waiver of deployed servicemembers' utility charges by a county or municipality.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill takes effect on July 1, 2007.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

71-12-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953



26 71-12-102, Utah Code Annotated 1953

27 71-12-201, Utah Code Annotated 1953

28 71-12-202, Utah Code Annotated 1953

29

30 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

31 Section 1. Section 71-12-101 is enacted to read:

32 **CHAPTER 12. UTILITY PAYMENTS FOR DEPLOYED SERVICEMEMBERS ACT**

33 **Part 1. General Provisions**

34 **71-12-101. Title.**

35 This chapter is known as the "Utility Payments for Deployed Servicemembers Act."

36 Section 2. Section 71-12-102 is enacted to read:

37 **71-12-102. Definitions.**

38 As used in this chapter:

39 (1) "Deployed servicemember" means a member of the military reserve or Utah
40 National Guard who is generally not a full-time servicemember but is called into active
41 full-time service of the United States for 180 days or longer.

42 (2) "Military reserve" means the military reserve forces of the United States, regardless
43 of military branch.

44 (3) "Utah National Guard" means the National Guard created in Title 39, Militia and
45 Armories.

46 (4) "Utility charges" means periodic charges for the use of utilities servicing a deployed
47 servicemember's residence, including:

48 (a) natural gas;

49 (b) electricity;

50 (c) water;

51 (d) sewerage; and

52 (e) garbage.

53 Section 3. Section 71-12-201 is enacted to read:

54 **Part 2. Servicemembers' Utility Charges**

55 **71-12-201. Payment of utility charges for deployed servicemembers.**

56 (1) The Division of Veterans' Affairs shall pay utility charges, up to \$75 per month for

57 up to 12 months, for a deployed servicemember during the period of time for which the
58 servicemember is deployed.

59 (2) Payments under this section shall be made only for utility charges not waived under
60 Section 71-12-202.

61 Section 4. Section **71-12-202** is enacted to read:

62 **71-12-202. Waiver of municipal utility charges for deployed servicemembers.**

63 Except for utility charges for electricity, a county or municipality shall waive utility
64 charges for a deployed servicemember during the period of time for which the servicemember
65 is deployed.

66 Section 5. **Effective date.**

67 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2007.

H.B. 336 1st Sub. (Buff) - Utility Costs of Deployed Servicemembers**Fiscal Note**

2007 General Session

State of Utah

State Impact

Enactment of this bill would require an ongoing appropriation of \$831,900 to the Division of Veterans Affairs from the General Fund beginning in FY 2008. The cost to the State to cover a portion of utility bills for certain deployed service members, as required by this bill, is estimated at \$776,300. These amounts would vary significantly depending on the number of troops deployed at any given time. The Division of Veteran's Affairs would need additional staff estimated to cost \$47,800, plus \$7,800 for mailing and other current expense costs, to handle processing of the utility payments. One-time costs for office equipment and furniture, estimated at \$7,500 will also be required in FY 2008.

	<u>FY 2007</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2007</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Revenue</u>
General Fund	\$0	\$831,900	\$831,900	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Fund, One-Time	\$0	\$7,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$839,400	\$831,900	\$0	\$0	\$0

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

Some utility bills would be paid for certain individual service members deployed full time through provisions of this bill. Local governments would be required to waive the cost of such service members' utility costs which they administer, not including electricity. While the number would vary from time to time, it is estimated that a total impact to local governments could be about \$1.5 million.