

# SUPPORT HB2200

Topic: Electric utilities; triennial review  
Bill Chief Patron: [Jerrold C. "Jay" Jones](#)  
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## Reasons to support HB2200:

- Virginians pay the 6th highest energy bills in the country, bills that are considered unaffordable for 75% of households based on federal energy burden standards.
- Dominion Energy has overcharged customers by at least \$502 million since 2017. This suggests that rates are much higher than they should be and that customers deserve refunds.
- Dominion Energy customers have already seen their bills increased by more than 25% in the last decade, and these bills are projected to rise even more as costs for Grid Modernization Act, Clean Economy Act, etc. are added to customers' bills. Virginians urgently need rate relief.

## Overview:

This ratepayer protection bill makes minor changes to Virginia's code aimed at restoring State Corporation Commission (SCC) discretion over certain accounting and ratemaking functions that are currently mandated in law to the utility's benefit.

## What the Bill Does

1. Changes "shall" to "may" in key sections of Virginia's code.
  - a. This bill takes specific sections of the code that dictate that the State Corporation Commission (SCC) shall follow pro-utility provisions and changes it so that the SCC may follow them, if the SCC decides such action benefits customers.
  - b. This leaves the majority of Virginia's utility-friendly code provisions intact but gives the SCC discretion over if these provisions should be implemented during a rate case.
2. Allows the SCC to balance utility and ratepayer interests.
  - a. Utilities retain the ability to recover all costs and their full authorized profit, but the SCC regains authority to determine the time period over which the utilities recover those costs.
  - b. SCC will be able to (i) prevent utilities from overcharging ratepayers in the future and (ii) order refunds for past overcharges.
3. Restores full SCC discretionary authority over:
  - a. The length of the recovery period for certain large-scale utility costs (storm expenses, metering retirements, etc.).
  - b. The cost recovery mechanism utilities can use for large-scale infrastructure projects.
  - c. Setting utility rates and authorized profit (ROE) moving forward.
  - d. Issuing full refunds to customers when they have been overcharged by their utility.



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