SENATE BILL No. 386

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 8-1-41.

Synopsis: Cost securitization for electric utility assets. Provides that an electric utility that has certain qualified costs that: (1) are associated with an electric generation facility that will be retired from service within 24 months; and (2) are equal to at least 5% of the electric utility's total electric base rate; may file a petition with the utility regulatory commission (IURC) for a financing order authorizing the securitization of the qualified costs. For purpose of these provisions, defines an "electric utility" as a public utility that: (1) owns or operates any electric generation facility in Indiana for the provision of electric utility service to Indiana customers; (2) is under the jurisdiction of the IURC; and (3) has a total of not more than 200,000 retail customers. Provides that not later than 120 days after a petition for a financing order is filed, the IURC shall conduct a hearing and issue an order on the petition. Provides that if the IURC makes certain findings with respect to the petition, the IURC shall issue a financing order that authorizes: (1) the issuance of securitization bonds with a term of not more than 15 years; (2) the collection of securitization charges from the electric utility's customers; and (3) the encumbrance of the resulting securitization property with a lien and security interest. Provides that qualified costs authorized in the IURC's financing order shall be allocated to the electric utility's customer classes using the same cost allocation methodology approved by the IURC in the electric utility's most recent base rate case, subject to certain exceptions. Provides that a financing order issued by the IURC under these provisions must include a mechanism: (1) requiring that securitization charges be reviewed and adjusted by the IURC at least annually; and (2) allowing (Continued next page)

Effective: Upon passage.

Koch

January 14, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Utilities.



an electric utility, on its own initiative, to apply to the IURC at any time during a calendar year for an adjustment of its securitization charges, as the electric utility determines to be necessary to: (A) correct any over collections or under collections of securitization charges; and (B) ensure the recovery of amounts sufficient to timely make all payments of debt service in connection with the securitization bonds. Sets forth provisions concerning the encumbrance of securitization property with a lien and security interest, including provisions concerning: (1) the attachment and perfection; and (2) the priority; of a security interest in securitization property. Specifies that securitization bonds are not: (1) a debt or obligation of the state; or (2) a charge on the state's full faith and credit or on the state's taxing power. Pledges that the state will not: (1) take or permit any action that would impair the value of securitization property; or (2) reduce, alter, or impair related securitization charges; until certain obligations in connection with the related securitization bonds have been paid or performed in full. Requires the IURC to adopt rules to implement these provisions. Urges the legislative council to assign to the interim study committee on energy, utilities, and telecommunications (committee) the task of studying during the 2022 legislative interim: (1) the implementation; and (2) use by electric utilities; of the bill's provisions concerning the securitization of costs for retired electric utility assets. Provides that if the committee is assigned to study this topic, the committee: (1) shall consider available data and other information concerning participating electric utilities that have been issued a financing order by the TURC under the bill's provisions; (2) may request this data and information from certain parties; and (3) shall, not later than November 1, 2022, submit to the legislative council a report setting forth the committee's findings and recommendations, including the committee's recommendations as to whether to allow, under the bill's provisions, additional electricity suppliers to securitize costs associated with retired electric utility assets.



First Regular Session of the 122nd General Assembly (2021)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in this style type, and deletions will appear in this style type.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or *this style type* reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 386

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning utilities.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1	SECTION 1. IC 8-1-41 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2	A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON
3	PASSAGE]:
4	Chapter 41. Pilot Program for Cost Securitization for Retired
5	Electric Utility Assets
6	Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "assignee" means any individual
7	corporation, or other legally recognized entity to which an interest
8	in securitization property is transferred.
9	Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the
0	Indiana utility regulatory commission created by IC 8-1-1-2.
1	Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "electric utility" means a public
2	utility (as defined in IC 8-1-2-1(a)) that:
3	(1) owns or operates any electric generation facility in Indiana
4	for the provision of electric utility service to Indiana
5	customers;



1	(2) is under the jurisdiction of the commission for the
2	approval of rates and charges; and
3	(3) has a total of not more than two hundred thousand
4	(200,000) retail electric customers at the time of the filing of
5	a petition under section 10 of this chapter.
6	Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "financing order" means an
7	order issued by the commission under section 10 of this chapter.
8	Sec. 5. (a) As used in this chapter, "financing party" means a
9	holder of securitization bonds.
10	(b) The term includes a trustee, a collateral agent, or any other
11	person acting for the benefit of the holder.
12	Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "qualified costs", with respect to
13	an electric generation facility that will be retired from service by
14	an electric utility not later than twenty-four (24) months after the
15	filing of a petition by the electric utility under section 10 of this
16	chapter, means the net original cost of the facility, as reflected on
17	the electric utility's accounting system, and as adjusted for
18	depreciation to be incurred until the facility is retired, together
19	with:
20	(1) costs of removal of the facility;
21	(2) the applicable portion of investment tax credits associated
22	with the facility;
23	(3) costs of issuing, supporting, and servicing securitization
24	bonds;
25	(4) taxes related to the recovery of securitization charges; and
26	(5) any costs of retiring and refunding the electric utility's
27	existing debt and equity securities in connection with the
28	issuance of securitization bonds.
29	Sec. 7. (a) As used in this chapter, "securitization bonds" means
30	bonds, debentures, notes, certificates of participation, certificates
31	of a beneficial interest, certificates of ownership, or other evidences
32	of indebtedness that:
33	(1) are issued by an electric utility, its successors, or an
34	assignee under a financing order;
35	(2) have a term of not more than fifteen (15) years; and
36	(3) are secured by, or payable from, securitization property.
37	(b) If certificates of participation, certificates of a beneficial
38	interest, or certificates of ownership are issued under this chapter,
39	a reference in this chapter to "principal", "interest", or
40	"premium" refers to comparable terms with respect to those
41	certificates.

Sec. 8. As used in this chapter, "securitization charges" means



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1	nonbypassable amounts that are:
2	(1) approved by the commission under a financing order to
3	allow for the full recovery of qualified costs by an electric
4	utility;
5	(2) payable by all customers and customer classes of the
6	electric utility, including any customer that:
7	(A) is participating in:
8	(i) a net metering program under 170 IAC 4-4.2; or
9	(ii) a feed-in-tariff program;
10	offered by the electric utility; or
11	(B) supplies at least part of the customer's own electricity
12	demand through distributed generation;
13	(3) charged for the use or availability of electric services; and
14	(4) collected by the electric utility, its successors, an assignee,
15	or any other collection agent as provided for in the financing
16	order.
17	Sec. 9. As used in this chapter, "securitization property" means
18	the rights and interests of an electric utility, or its successor, under
19	a financing order, as described in section 11 of this chapter.
20	Sec. 10. (a) An electric utility with qualified costs that are at
21	least five percent (5%) of the electric utility's total electric rate
22	base may file a petition with the commission for the authority to:
23	(1) issue securitization bonds;
24	(2) collect securitization charges; and
25	(3) encumber securitization property with a lien and security
26	interest, as described in section 14 of this chapter.
27	An electric utility's qualified costs may be estimated at the time of
28	filing a petition under this section.
29	(b) Not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after the date
30	a petition is filed by an electric utility under subsection (a), the
31	commission shall conduct a hearing and issue an order on the
32	petition. The commission shall approve the issuance of
33	securitization bonds, the collection of securitization charges, and
34	the encumbrance of securitization property with a lien and security
35	interest under section 14 of this chapter if the commission:
36	(1) makes the findings set forth in subsection (c); and
37	(2) finds that the net present value of the total securitization
38	charges to be collected under the commission's financing
39	order under this section is less than the amount that would be
40	recovered through traditional ratemaking if the electric
41	utility's qualified costs were included in the electric utility's

net original cost rate base and recovered over a period of not



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1	more than fifteen (15) years.
2	Qualified costs authorized in the commission's financing order
3	under this section shall be allocated to the electric utility's
4	customer classes using the same cost allocation methodology
5	approved by the commission in the electric utility's most recent
6	base rate proceeding. However, the commission may adjust
7	allocations of qualified costs to avoid unreasonable rates to
8	customers in customer classes that have experienced material
9	changes in electric load or in the number of customers.
10	(c) In issuing a financing order under this section, the
11	commission must make the following findings and determinations:
12	(1) A determination of the amount of the electric utility's
13	qualified costs.
14	(2) A finding that the proceeds of the authorized securitization
15	bonds will be used solely for the purposes of reimbursing the
16	electric utility for qualified costs, and that the electric utility's
17	books and records will reflect a reduction in rate base
18	associated with the receipt of proceeds from the securitization
19	bonds.
20	(3) A finding that the expected structuring and the expected
21	pricing of the securitization bonds will result in reasonable
22	terms consistent with market conditions and the terms of the
23	financing order.
24	(4) A finding that the electric utility will make capital
25	investments in the electric utility's system in an amount equal
26	to at least the amount of the electric utility's qualified costs, as
27	determined under subdivision (1), over a period:
28	(A) beginning on the date of the filing of the electric
29	utility's petition under subsection (a); and
30	(B) ending four (4) years after the date of the filing of the
31	electric utility's petition under subsection (a).
32	(d) A financing order issued under this section must set forth:
33	(1) the amount of qualified costs to be recovered by the
34	electric utility; and
35	(2) the period over which securitization charges are to be
36	collected, which may not exceed fifteen (15) years.
37	(e) Securitization bonds are effective in accordance with their
38	terms. Both:
39	(1) the financing order under which the securitization bonds
40	are issued; and
41	(2) the securitization charges authorized in that order;
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are irrevocable and not subject to reduction, impairment, or



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adjustment by further action of the commission under IC 8-1-2-72

2	or any other statute or rule, except as provided in section 12(c).
3	(f) Securitization bonds issued under a financing order of the
4	commission under this section are binding in accordance with their
5	terms, even if the financing order is later vacated, modified, or
6	otherwise held to be invalid in whole or in part.
7	(g) Upon the request of an electric utility, the commission may
8	adopt a financing order under this section authorizing the
9	retirement and refunding of previously authorized securitization
10	bonds if the commission finds that future securitization charges
11	required to service new securitization bonds, including transaction
12	costs, will be less than the future securitization charges required to
13	service the securitization bonds to be refunded. Upon the
14	retirement of the refunded securitization bonds, the commission
15	shall adjust the related securitization charges accordingly.
16	(h) IC 8-1-2-76 through IC 8-1-2-83 do not apply to:
17	(1) the issuance of securitization bonds under this section; or
18	(2) the encumbrance of securitization property with a lien and
19	security interest under section 14 of this chapter.
20	(i) Notwithstanding IC 8-1-3-2, a financing order issued by the
21	commission under this section is not subject to rehearing or
22	reconsideration by the commission.
23	(j) A financing order is subject to appeal under IC 8-1-3.
24	However, notwithstanding IC 8-1-3, an appeal of a financing order
25	under this chapter:
26	(1) must be taken directly to the supreme court; and
27	(2) shall be initiated by filing a notice of appeal with the clerk
28	of the supreme court not later than fifteen (15) days after the
29	issuance of the financing order.
30	Sec. 11. (a) Securitization property consists of the rights and
31	interests of an electric utility, or its successor, under a financing
32	order, including the following:
33	(1) The right to impose, collect, and receive securitization
34	charges, as authorized under the financing order, in an
35	amount necessary to provide for the full recovery of all
36	qualified costs.
37	(2) The right under the financing order to obtain periodic
38	adjustments of securitization charges under section 12(c) of
39	this chapter.
40	(3) All revenue, collections, payments, money, and proceeds
41	arising out of the rights and interests described in this section.
42	(b) Securitization property constitutes a present property right



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1	for purposes of contracts concerning the sale or pledge of property,
2	even if the imposition and collection of securitization charges
3	depends on further acts of the electric utility or others that have
4	not yet occurred. The securitization property continues to exist,
5	and the financing order under which the securitization property
6	arises remains in effect, for the same period as the pledge of the
7	state under section 15(b) of this chapter.
8	(c) All revenues and collections resulting from securitization
9	charges constitute proceeds of only the securitization property
10	arising from the financing order.
11	Sec. 12. (a) The interest of an assignee in securitization property
12	and in securitization charges is not subject to setoff, counterclaim,
13	surcharge, or defense by the electric utility or any other person, or
14	in connection with the bankruptcy of the electric utility or any
15	other person. A financing order remains in effect and unabated
16	notwithstanding the bankruptcy of the electric utility, its

- (b) A financing order must include terms ensuring that the securitization charges authorized under the order are nonbypassable charges that are payable by all customers and customer classes of the electric utility, including any customer that:
 - (1) is participating in:

successors, or assignees.

- (A) a net metering program under 170 IAC 4-4.2; or
- (B) a feed-in-tariff program;
- offered by the electric utility; or
- (2) supplies at least part of the customer's own electricity demand through distributed generation.
- (c) A financing order must include a mechanism requiring that securitization charges be reviewed and adjusted by the commission at least annually. Each year, not earlier than forty-five (45) days before the anniversary date of the issuance of securitization bonds under the financing order, and not later than the anniversary date of the issuance of the securitization bonds, the electric utility shall submit to the commission an application to do the following:
 - (1) Correct any over collections or under collections of securitization charges during the twelve (12) months preceding the date of the filing of the electric utility's application under this section. For the first annual review under this section, the electric utility shall correct for any over collections or under collections of securitization charges during those months:
 - (A) that precede the date of the filing of the electric utility's



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1	application under this section; and
2 3	(B) in which securitization charges were collected.
3	(2) Ensure, through proposed securitization charges, as set
4	forth by the electric utility in the application, the expected
5	recovery of amounts sufficient to timely provide all payments
6	of debt service and other required amounts and charges in
7	connection with the securitization bonds.
8	The commission shall review the application, including the electric
9	utility's proposed securitization charges, and if the proposed
10	securitization charges have been appropriately calculated issue an
11	order approving the application and the proposed securitization
12	charges not later than forty-five (45) days after the filing of the
13	application. The commission shall approve any revisions to
14	securitization charges under this subsection without conducting an
15	evidentiary hearing. At any time during a calendar year, an
16	electric utility may, on its own initiative, file an application with
17	the commission under this section as the electric utility may
18	determine to be necessary to meet the requirements set forth in
19	subdivisions (1) and (2). The commission shall review any
20	application filed by an electric utility outside of the annual review
21	schedule, including the electric utility's proposed securitization
22	charges, and if the proposed securitization charges have been
23	appropriately calculated issue an order approving the application
24	and the proposed securitization charges not later than forty-five
25	(45) days after the filing of the application.
26	Sec. 13. (a) If an agreement by an electric utility or an assignee
27	to transfer securitization property expressly states that the transfer
28	is a sale or is otherwise an absolute transfer:
29	(1) the resulting transaction:
30	(A) is a true sale; and
31	(B) is not a secured transaction; and
32	(2) title, both legal and equitable, passes to the person to
33	which the securitization property is transferred.
34	(b) A transaction resulting from an agreement described in
35	subsection (a) is a true sale regardless of:
36	(1) whether the purchaser has any recourse against the seller;
37	or
38	(2) any other term of the agreement, including the following:
39	(A) The seller's retention of an equity interest in the
40	securitization property.
41	(B) The fact that the electric utility acts as a collector of
42	securitization charges relating to the securitization



1	property.
2 3	(C) The treatment of the transfer as a financing for tax,
	financial reporting, or other purposes.
4	Sec. 14. (a) A valid and enforceable lien and security interest in
5	securitization property may be created only by a financing order
6	and the execution and delivery of a security agreement with a
7	financing entity in connection with the issuance of securitization
8	bonds.
9	(b) The lien and security interest attach automatically from the
10	time that value is received for the securitization bonds, and:
11	(1) constitute a continuously perfected lien and security
12	interest in the securitization property and all proceeds of the
13	property, whether or not accrued;
14	(2) have priority in the order of their filing, if a financing
15	statement is filed with respect to the security interest in
16	accordance with IC 26-1; and
17	(3) take precedence over any subsequent judicial lien or other
18	creditor's lien.
19	In addition to the rights and remedies provided by this chapter, all
20	rights and remedies provided by IC 26-1 with respect to a security
21	interest apply with respect to securitization property.
22	(c) Transfer of an interest in securitization property to an
23	assignee is perfected against all third parties, including subsequent
24	judicial or other lien creditors, if a financing statement is filed with
25	respect to the transfer in accordance with IC 26-1.
26	(d) The priority of a lien and security interest under this section
27	is not impaired by the following:
28	(1) A later modification of the financing order under which
29	the securitization property arises.
30	(2) The commingling of other funds with funds arising from
31	the collection of securitization charges. Any other security
32	interest that may apply to funds arising from the collection of
33	securitization charges terminates when the funds are
34	transferred to a segregated account for the benefit of the
35	assignee or a financing entity. If securitization property has
36	been transferred to an assignee, any proceeds from that
37	property shall be held in trust for the assignee.
38	(e) If the electric utility or any of its successors default in paying
39	revenues arising with respect to the securitization property, the
40	commission or a court having jurisdiction shall, upon application
41	of the financing party, and without limiting any other remedies
42	available to the financing party, order the:



1	(1) sequestration; and
2	(2) payment to the financing party;
3	of revenues arising with respect to the securitization property. An
4	order under this subsection remains in full force and effect
5	notwithstanding any bankruptcy, reorganization, or other
6	insolvency proceedings with respect to the debtor or any pledger
7	or transferor of the securitization property.
8	(f) Securitization property constitutes an account as defined in
9	IC 26-1-9.1-102.
10	(g) For purposes of this chapter and IC 26-1, securitization
11	property is considered to exist regardless of whether:
12	(1) the revenue or proceeds with respect to the property have
13	accrued; or
14	(2) the value of the property right is dependent on the
15	customers of an electric utility receiving service.
16	(h) Changes in a financing order or in customers' securitization
17	charges do not affect the validity, perfection, or priority of the
18	security interest in the related securitization property.
19	(i) The description of securitization property in a security
20	agreement, in another agreement, or in a financing statement is
21	sufficient if it refers to this chapter and the financing order under
22	which the securitization property arises.
23	(j) This chapter controls in any conflict between this chapter
24	and any other Indiana law regarding:
25	(1) the attachment and perfection;
26	(2) the effect of perfection; and
27	(3) the priority;
28	of any security interest in securitization property.
29	Sec. 15. (a) Securitization bonds are not:
30	(1) a debt or obligation of the state; or
31	(2) a charge on the state's full faith and credit or on the state's
32	taxing power.
33	(b) The state pledges, for the benefit and protection of financing
34	parties and electric utilities under this chapter, that it will not:
35	(1) take or permit any action that would impair the value of
36	securitization property; or
37	(2) reduce or alter, except as authorized by section 12(c) of
38	this chapter, or impair securitization charges to be imposed,
39	collected, and remitted to financing parties under this
40	chapter;
41	until the principal, interest, and premium, and other charges

incurred, or contracts to be performed, in connection with the



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related securitization bonds have been paid or performed in full. Any party issuing securitization bonds is authorized to include the pledge set forth in this subsection in any documentation relating to those bonds.

Sec. 16. (a) The acquisition, ownership, and disposition of any direct interest in any securitization bond shall not be taken into account in determining whether a person is subject to any income tax, franchise tax, business activities tax, intangible property tax, excise tax, stamp tax, or any other tax imposed by the state or by any political subdivision of the state.

- (b) Any successor to an electric utility, whether that person becomes a successor as a result of any:
 - (1) bankruptcy, reorganization, or other insolvency proceeding; or
- (2) merger, acquisition, sale, or transfer; shall, by operation of law, perform and satisfy all obligations of the electric utility under this chapter in the same manner and to the same extent as the electric utility would have been obligated to perform and satisfy before the event described in subdivision (1) or (2), including collecting and paying revenues arising with respect to the securitization property to persons entitled to those revenues.
- (c) An assignee or financing party is not considered to be an electric utility solely by virtue of any transactions described in this chapter.
- Sec. 17. The provisions of this chapter are severable in the manner provided in IC 1-1-1-8(b).
- Sec. 18. The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter. In adopting the rules required by this section, the commission may adopt emergency rules in the manner provided by IC 4-22-2-37.1. Notwithstanding IC 4-22-2-37.1(g), an emergency rule adopted by the commission under this section and in the manner provided by IC 4-22-2-37.1 expires on the date on which a rule that supersedes the emergency rule is adopted by the commission under IC 4-22-2-24 through IC 4-22-2-36.

SECTION 2. [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE] (a) As used in this SECTION, "commission" refers to the Indiana utility regulatory commission created by IC 8-1-1-2.

- (b) As used in this SECTION, "committee" refers to the interim study committee on energy, utilities, and telecommunications established by IC 2-5-1.3-4(8).
- (c) As used in this SECTION, "electric utility" has the meaning set forth in IC 8-1-41-3, as added by this act.



1	(d) As used in this SECTION, "participating electric utility"
2	refers to an electric utility that:
3	(1) has been issued a financing order by the commission under
4	IC 8-1-41-10, as added by this act; and
5	(2) has issued securitization bonds and collected securitization
6	charges;
7	under the authority granted by the financing order.
8	(e) The legislative council is urged to assign to the committee
9	during the 2022 legislative interim the task of studying the:
10	(1) implementation; and
11	(2) use by electric utilities;
12	of IC 8-1-41, as added by this act, concerning the securitization of
13	costs for retired electric utility assets.
14	(f) If the committee is assigned to study the topic described in
15	subsection (e), the committee shall consider available data and
16	other information concerning the following:
17	(1) The number of electric utilities that have submitted a
18	petition to commission under IC 8-1-41-10, as added by this
19	act, for the authority to:
20	(A) issue securitization bonds;
21	(B) collect securitization charges; and
22	(C) encumber securitization property with a lien and
23	security interest.
24	(2) The number of financing orders that the commission has
25	issued under IC 8-1-41-10, as added by this act.
26	(3) The total amount of securitization bonds issued under
27	IC 8-1-41, as added by this act, by each participating electric
28	utility.
29	(4) The total amount of securitization charges collected under
30	IC 8-1-41, as added by this act, by each participating electric
31	utility.
32	(5) The total savings realized by each participating electric
33	utility by securitizing its qualified costs (as defined in
34	IC 8-1-41-6, as added by this act), compared to the amount of
35	those costs that would have been recovered by the electric
36	utility through traditional ratemaking over the same period
37	of years.
38	(6) The purposes for which each participating electric utility
39	has used any savings described in subdivision (5).
40	(g) If the committee is assigned to study the topic described in
41	subsection (e), the committee may request information on the topic,
42	including the data and information described in subsection (f),



1	from:
2	(1) the commission;
3	(2) participating electric utilities;
4	(3) customers of participating electric utilities; and
5	(4) any experts, stakeholders, or other interested parties, as
6	the committee determines appropriate.
7	(h) If the committee is assigned to study the topic described in
8	subsection (e), the committee shall, not later than November 1,
9	2022, submit to the legislative council a report setting forth the
10	committee's findings and recommendations on the topic described
11	in subsection (e), including the committee's recommendations as to
12	whether the IC 8-1-41, as added by this act, should be amended to
13	allow other electricity suppliers, in addition to electric utilities
14	described in IC 8-1-41-3, as added by this act, to securitize costs
15	associated with retired electric utility assets. A report submitted to
16	the legislative council under this subsection must be in an
17	electronic format under IC 5-14-6.
18	(i) This SECTION expires January 1, 2023.
19	SECTION 3. An emergency is declared for this act.

