

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 599	House Committee: PASSED 3/1/23 (22-1)
Committee:	Commerce	House Floor:
Floor Manager:	Rep. Mike Vondran	Senate Floor:
Date:	March 14, 2023	Governor:
Staff:	Natalie Ginty (5-2063)	

Muni/REC bill

- This bill comes from the municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives to update language to mirror the Muni statute after the REC statute, to clarify the IUB's complaint authority is limited to matters within its jurisdiction, and clarifies that non-rate regulated utilities may charge disconnection or reconnection fees.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 (Iowa Code 476.1A)

Deletes unnecessary words given the new addition of definitions of safety standards and engineering standards. Also adds reference to applicable sections. Removes pilot projects, which have never been used, and adds a reference to railroad crossing statute.

This section also clarifies the IUB's complain jurisdiction is limited to those items over which it has jurisdiction. Defines "engineering standards", "rates", and "safety standards".

Section 2 (Iowa Code 476.1B)

Makes the regulatory provisions for municipal utilities the same as those for RECs.

Section 3 (Iowa Code 476.20)

Clarifies that IUB can have rules related to Muni and REC procedures and notice requirements for disconnection of service, but shall not regulate the rates of those non-rate regulated utilities.

Section 4 (Iowa Code 476.20)

Conforming changes

Section 5 (Iowa Code 592.9)

Allow municipal bond counsel to issue opinions affirming that municipal utilities have the necessary legal authority to issue revenue bonds. This section extends the current provision to cover all types of municipal utilities.