

Motion 1 (NDP)

Section 0.1

I move that the Bill be amended by adding the following section:

Purpose

0.1 The purpose of this Act is to provide financial assistance in respect of electricity costs.

RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

Analysis/Summary

The proposed motion would add a new section to the bill which would outline the purpose of the Act.

Proposed Response and Rationale

I recommend voting **AGAINST** this motion because:

- The proposed new section is not necessary. The purpose of the Act is already evident from the provisions of the Bill.
- Adding a new section does not add anything to the interpretation of the Act's provisions.

Key Messages

- This legislation, if passed, would bring into force the *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act* which would provide an eight per cent (8%) rebate on monthly electricity costs for nearly 5 million residential consumers, small businesses and farms
- The government has introduced this legislation because we know that families need help with the cost of everyday living.

Motion 2 (NDP)

Subsection 3(2)

I move that clause 3(2)(c) of the Bill be struck out

RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

Analysis/Summary

The proposed motion would strike the clause that provides the government with the authority to prescribe in regulation that a consumer is not entitled to receive financial assistance.

Proposed Response and Rational

I recommend voting **AGAINST** this motion because:

- The proposed motion restricts the government's authority to prescribe consumers who are not entitled to receive the financial assistance.
 - Authority to prescribe through regulation consumers who are not entitled to receive the financial assistance enables the government to address any issues that may arise over eligibility.
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Key Messages

- This legislation, if passed, would bring into force the *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act* which would provide an eight

per cent (8%) rebate on monthly electricity bills for nearly 5 million residential consumers, small businesses and farms

- The government has introduced this legislation because we know that families need help with the cost of everyday living.

Notice to vote against Section 4 (NDP)

An Act in respect of the cost of electricity

4. Invoices

The New Democratic Party has submitted NOTICE to vote against Section 4 of the Bill.

THERE IS NO VOTE ON THE NOTICE.

Vote to carry Section 4.

Analysis/Summary

Section 4 of the bill would provide requirements for electricity vendors and unit sub-meter providers who issue invoices to clearly display on the invoice a credit equal to the amount of the financial assistance provided to the customer and the net amount of the invoice after the credit.

Additionally this section provides a transitional period for electricity vendors and unit sub-meter providers who, for technical reasons, are unable to adapt their invoices in time for January 1, 2017 to have their invoices adapted by no later than July 1, 2017.

Proposed Response and Rationale

- Section 4 of the Act provides important direction for electricity vendors and unit sub-meter providers to ensure that all consumers across Ontario receive accurate information about the financial assistance they are receiving.

- This will ensure that consumers know exactly the amount of financial assistance they are receiving as well as the net amount of the invoice after the credit.
- This will also enable consumers to verify that they are getting the full rebate to which they are entitled.
- This section also provides important transitional provisions for electricity vendors or unit sub-meter providers who may be unable for technical reasons to adapt their invoices to provide the financial assistance to consumers as of January 1, 2017.

Key Messages

- If passed, this legislation would provide an 8% rebate for residential consumers, small businesses and farms, as of January 1, 2017.
- The government is committed to transparency and ensuring that all customers get access to the same information about the 8% rebate.

Motion 3 (NDP)

Subsection 5.1

I move that the Bill be amended by adding the following section:

Duty to consult First Nations

5.1 (1) The Minister shall identify the First Nations that have unlicensed distributors who own or operate distribution systems on their reserves and shall consult with those First Nations and the unlicensed distributors to determine whether the unlicensed distributors are willing to enter in to an arrangement with the Minister to provide the financial assistance provided for in this Act.

Results of consultation

(2) The Minister shall publish the results of the consultation within six months after this Act receives Royal Assent.

RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

Analysis/Summary

This proposed motion would require the Minister to consult with First Nations that have unlicensed distributors who own or operate distribution systems on their reserves to determine whether the unlicensed distributors are willing to enter in to an arrangement with the Minister to provide the financial assistance provided for in this Act. Additionally the Minister would be required to publish the results of the consultation within six months of this Act receiving Royal Assent.

Proposed Response and Rational

I recommend voting **AGAINST** this motion because:

- There are existing provisions within the Act that allow the Lieutenant Governor in Council, through regulation, to provide First Nations consumers served by an unlicensed distributor – known as Independent Power Authorities – with the financial assistance provided for in this Act.
- The Ministry has existing agreements with a number of Independent Power Authorities to provide their eligible customers with the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit.
- Through regulation, the government intends to establish a similar process which would allow those consumers to receive the financial assistance provided for in the Act.
- Additionally, on June 27, 2016, the Minister asked the Ontario Energy Board to examine and report back on developing an appropriate electricity rate (or rate assistance) for on-reserve First Nations consumers.

Key Messages

- Our government recognizes that the price of electricity can be a particular challenge for those that pay a higher share of their income towards the bill - particularly for on-reserve First Nations consumers.
- We have heard concerns about high electricity costs from First Nations leaders across Ontario and understand on-reserve First Nations consumers often face unique challenges that lead to higher electricity consumption and higher costs that impact electricity affordability.

- Given these unique challenges, the Minister of Energy committed to look at options for addressing First Nations electricity costs. That's why under s.35 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 the Minister of Energy requested that the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) investigate appropriate rate assistance options for on-reserve First Nations electricity consumers.
- Through regulation, our government intends to establish a process that will enable First Nations consumers who are served by independent power authorities to receive the financial assistance provided for through Bill 13.

Motion 4 (NDP)

Subsection 15 (2)

I move that subsection 15(2) of the Bill be struck out

RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

Analysis/Summary

Subsection 15 (2) of the Act would provide the Minister of Energy with the authority to make regulations that prescribe information that must be included on or with invoices and govern the presentation of the financial assistance.

Proposed Response and Rational

I recommend voting **AGAINST** this motion because:

- Subsection 15(2) provides the Minister with necessary authority to issue regulations prescribing information that must be included on or with invoices issued to consumers who receive payments of financial assistance under this Act.
- In order to ensure that consumers receive accurate information about the financial assistance they are receiving under this Act, the Minister must have authority to prescribe to electricity vendors and sub-meter providers what that information should include.

- Requiring electricity vendors and unit sub-meter providers to set out prescribed information ensures that all consumers across the provide receive information that is accurate and easy to understand.
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Key Messages

- If passed, this legislation would provide an 8% rebate for residential consumers, small businesses and farms, as of January 1, 2017.
- The government is committed to transparency and ensuring that all customers get access to the same information about the 8% rebate.

Motion 5 (PC)

Section 19

I move that section 19 of the Bill be struck out and the following substituted:

Short title

19. The short title of this Act is the *Raymond Cho MPP Hydro Benefit Act, 2016*

RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE

Analysis/Summary

This motion would replace the existing short title of the Act - the *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016* - with *Raymond Cho MPP Hydro Benefit Act, 2016*

Proposed Response and Rational

I recommend voting **AGAINST** this motion because:

- The short title of the Act under section 19 of the Bill follows the standard convention for short titles; provides a simple and accurate description of the Act and should be maintained.
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Key Messages

- This legislation, if passed, would bring into force the *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act* which would provide an eight per cent (8%) rebate on monthly electricity bills for nearly 5 million residential consumers, small businesses and farms
- The government has introduced this legislation because we know that families need help with the cost of everyday living.