**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**H. 3157**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Rep. King

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Introduced in the House on January 10, 2023

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Labor, Commerce and Industry**

Summary: Prohibit Public Utility from Collecting Additional Service Fee from Consumer's Payment

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/8/2022 House Prefiled

12/8/2022 House Referred to Committee on **Labor, Commerce and Industry**

1/10/2023 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 80](h:\hj\20230110.docx))

1/10/2023 House Referred to Committee on **Labor, Commerce and Industry** ([House Journal‑page 80](h:\hj\20230110.docx))

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=3157&session=125&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/08/2022](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/3157_20221208.docx)

A bill

to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding Section 58‑1‑70 so as to MAKE IT UNLAWFUL FOR A PUBLIC UTILITY OR A THIRD PARTY AUTHORIZED BY A PUBLIC UTILITY TO ACCEPT PAYMENTS FOR UTILITY BILLS ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY, TO COLLECT AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR A CONSUMER’S PAYMENT AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Title 58 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 58‑1‑70. (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it is unlawful for a public utility, as defined in Section 58‑3‑5, or a third party authorized by a public utility to accept payments for utility bills on behalf of the public utility, to collect an additional service fee from a consumer’s payment.

(B) A public utility or third party who violates the provisions of this section must be fined one thousand dollars for each offense.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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