

HB 39-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0211

05/08

HOUSE BILL            ***39-FN***

AN ACT                relative to paper billing fees.

SPONSORS:           Rep. Vail, Hills. 6

COMMITTEE:          Commerce and Consumer Affairs

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ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits a person doing business in this state from charging an additional fee for receiving a paper billing statement, electing to make a payment by United States mail, or attempting to pay a bill in person.

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Explanation:        Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                         Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~  
                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three*

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2024.

**HB 39-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to paper billing fees.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**    ☒ State                    ☐ County                    ☐ Local                    ☐ None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
<b>Appropriation</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill creates a new chapter under RSA 359 prohibiting any person doing business in this state, excluding governmental agencies, from charging a customer an additional fee for receiving a paper billing statement, electing to make a payment by mail, or attempting to pay in person. Any person violating the provisions of this bill will be subject to a civil penalty. The bill assigns responsibility for enforcement of this chapter to the Department of Justice. The bill also creates a private right of action whereby an aggrieved party can bring an action for injunctive relief, actual damages and attorney's fees.

The Department of Justices states there will be an indeterminable increase in general fund expenditures as the number of investigations and or prosecutions to enforce this bill is uncertain.

There may be and indeterminable increase to State revenues as new civil penalties are assigned in this bill.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Justice