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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 105

01/12/2015 Authored by Garofalo

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to energy; modifying the treatment of certain utility advertising
1.3 expenditures; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 216B.16, subdivision 8.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 216B.16, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

1.6 Subd. 8. **Advertising expense.** (a) The commission shall disapprove the portion of
1.7 any rate which makes an allowance directly or indirectly for expenses incurred by a public
1.8 utility to provide a public advertisement which:

1.9 (1) is designed to influence or has the effect of influencing public attitudes toward
1.10 legislation or proposed legislation, or toward a rule, proposed rule, authorization or
1.11 proposed authorization of the Public Utilities Commission or other agency of government
1.12 responsible for regulating a public utility;

1.13 (2) is designed to justify or otherwise support or defend a rate, proposed rate,
1.14 practice or proposed practice of a public utility;

1.15 ~~(3) is designed primarily to promote consumption of the services of the utility;~~

1.16 ~~(4)~~ (3) is designed primarily to promote good will for the public utility or improve
1.17 the utility's public image; or

1.18 ~~(5)~~ (4) is designed to promote the use of nuclear power or to promote a nuclear
1.19 waste storage facility.

1.20 (b) The commission may approve a rate which makes an allowance for expenses
1.21 incurred by a public utility to disseminate information which:

1.22 (1) is designed to encourage conservation of energy supplies;

1.23 (2) is designed to promote safety; or

2.1 (3) is designed to inform and educate customers as to financial services made
2.2 available to them by the public utility.

2.3 (c) The commission shall not withhold approval of a rate because it makes an
2.4 allowance for expenses incurred by the utility to disseminate information about corporate
2.5 affairs to its owners.

2.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.