

# Modernizing Rate Notice Requirements

A narrow amendment to Section 63-9A-8.1 removing obsolete public informational meeting requirements

**New Mexico Science, Technology, and Telecommunications  
Legislative Committee**

October 8, 2026 | Los Alamos, New Mexico

# The request: remove one obsolete procedural step

The proposal changes the meeting requirement, not the underlying rate review framework.

## Current statute

For a residential local exchange rate increase, the statute requires:

- 60-day notice to affected subscribers
- Notice of protest and hearing rights
- A public informational meeting in each affected PRC district



## Proposed amendment

Delete the district-based public informational meeting requirement and the related meeting-date notice language.

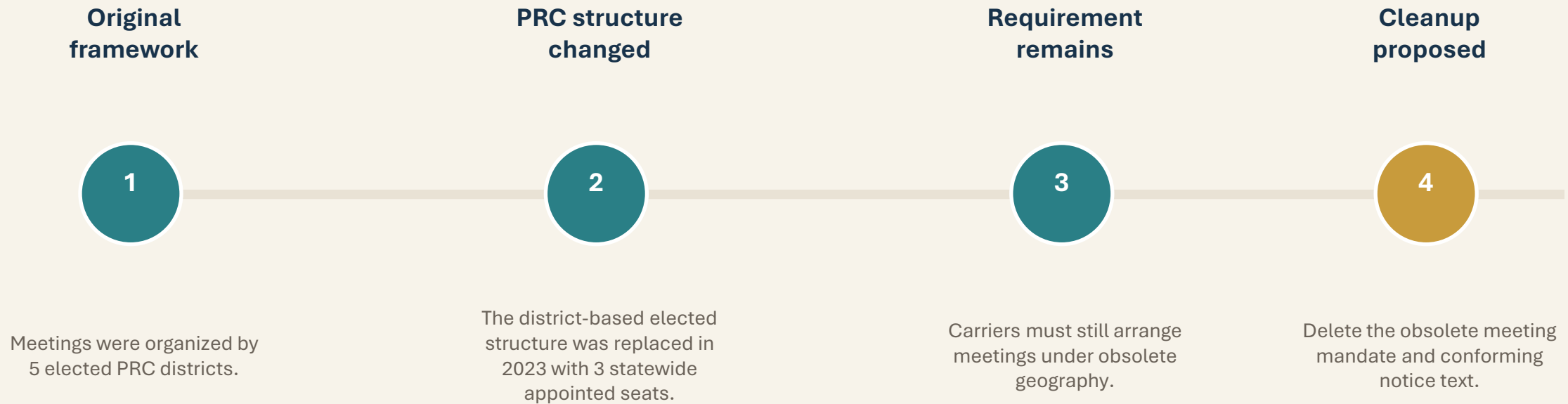
## What remains

- 60-day customer notice
- Right to petition for a PRC hearing
- PRC Staff review for good cause
- Authority to suspend, adjust, or refund rates

**A focused statutory cleanup, not deregulation.**

# The meeting mandate is tied to a structure that no longer exists

Current language directs meetings in PRC districts established by the former Apportionment Act.



**Policy objective: align the statute with today's PRC structure while keeping meaningful notice and review rights intact.**

# The public meeting is triggered by a narrow rate change

The notice can reach a broad customer base even though many customers' bills are not affected by the proposed increase.

## Customer product mix matters

1

### Price-for-life products

Contracted or protected pricing is not changed by the rate filing.

2

### Bundled services

The bundle can remain outside the standalone rate increase.

3

### Affected standalone service

The existing 60-day notice and protest protections continue.

# Consumer protections remain intact

The amendment preserves every substantive avenue for notice, review, and relief described in the current section.

1

## 60-day notice

Affected subscribers receive advance notice and reasons for the increase.

2

## Right to protest

At least 100 affected subscribers may request review.

3

## Staff safeguard

PRC Staff may initiate review on its own motion for good cause.

4

## Commission authority

The PRC may suspend rates, hold a hearing, adjust rates, and order refunds.

**No change to the statutory “fair, just and reasonable” review standard.**

# Proposed statutory change

Delete the meeting mandate and make conforming subsection references.

## DELETE

### Subsection D(5)

*“the dates, times and places for the public informational meetings required by this section.”*

### Existing Subsection E

*Requirement to hold at least one public informational meeting in each affected PRC district.*

## PRESERVE

- 60-day subscriber notice
- Reasons and affected-service description
- Right to petition the PRC
- 100-subscriber protest threshold
- PRC Staff good-cause review
- Hearings, rate adjustment, and refunds

*Conforming edits renumber the remaining subsections E through G.*

## Key questions, answered upfront

### Does this reduce transparency?

No. Affected customers still receive 60-day notice, the reason for the increase, and information about hearing rights.

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### Is this deregulation?

No. PRC review authority, the protest process, the hearing standard, and refund authority remain unchanged.

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### Why remove the meetings?

The requirement is tied to former PRC districts and internal experience indicates the meetings rarely produce participation.

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### Are all customers affected by the increase?

No. Product terms matter. Many customers are on protected-price products or bundles outside the standalone rate adjustment.

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# Our request

We respectfully request that the committee endorse the amendment to Section 63-9A-8.1 removing the public informational meeting requirement and related notice language.

## Why the committee can support it

### Aligned with today's PRC

The meeting mandate is tied to PRC districts eliminated when the Apportionment Act was repealed effective January 1, 2023.

### Removes a step of no value

District informational meetings routinely draw no participants, adding scheduling and notice burden without improving review.

### Protections stay intact

The 60-day notice, protest rights, PRC Staff review, and authority to suspend, adjust, or refund rates all remain.

# Questions?

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