

## **Deregulation of Natural Gas Cooperative Public Utilities; HB 2489**

**HB 2489** allows a natural gas cooperative public utility to be exempt from the rate-making jurisdiction of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), subject to the affirmative vote of a majority of the cooperative's members voting on the proposal. The utility continues to be subject to KCC jurisdiction for such issues as pipeline safety, customer complaints, and certificated territory.

If rate deregulation is approved, the bill requires notice to customers of proposed rate changes and a public schedule of rates and charges. A cooperative that fails to provide either the required notice or the schedule of rates and charges is subject to civil penalties. In addition, the bill outlines the process by which cooperative members could request a KCC investigation of changes in rates, and gives the KCC authority to remedy rates, charges, or classifications it deems unjust.