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Commonwealth Edison is pitching lawmakers on new legislation that would get its electrical grid modernization "back on track." In advertisements aimed at legislators, ComEd blames regulators for **Smart Meter** delays, saying a decision to cut funding has affected "ComEd's ability to fund the work."

A bill sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton, however, does not require ComEd to speed up its timeline for deploying smart meters or require ComEd to end a court battle over its funding concerns. Instead, it requires consumers to pay ComEd with interest for alleged funding shortfalls and gives the utility a temporary pass if it doesn't meet the investment promises it made under the original grid modernization law passed in 2011. A second bill sponsored by Rep. Lou Lang, D-Skokie, in the House would require ComEd to install smart meters as soon as possible.

ComEd says it supports both bills and intends to speed up its timeline for the installation of smart meters if the legislation passes. The company adds that it has no plans to end its court fight with the Illinois Commerce Commission. "Nobody wants to wait until 2015 to put meters in, but as we've said, there needs to be certainty about the funding," said Thomas O'Neill, ComEd senior vice president for regulatory and energy policy and general counsel.

The AARP, which has been monitoring the smart grid program, says the proposed legislation would allow ComEd to pad its bottom line without meeting deadlines. "It just gives them a complete free pass on everything. You can delay, you can get your money back and we're not going to hold you accountable for anything," said Scott Musser, AARP Illinois associate director.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office opposes the new legislation. "We remain concerned that these changes would once again increase ComEd profits at the expense of ratepayers," Maura Possley, a spokeswoman for Madigan, said Monday.

ComEd, a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corp., balked on an aggressive investment schedule last year when regulators cut the funds it expected to receive under the smart grid law. "Unfortunately, we must make adjustments to our investment plans if we do not receive full funding, as the law envisioned," the company said in December. In exchange for \$2.6 billion in consumer rate hikes over 10 years, ComEd had pledged to digitalize the electrical grid. The utility said operational savings would ultimately save money and that in-home devices would give consumers more control over their electricity usage. New smart meters were to be installed throughout ComEd's service territory of roughly 3.8 million customers. About 130,000 smart meters have been installed as a pilot project.

Electricity Pricing – Mar 5, 2012

	On-Peak	Off-Peak
2013	\$0.04003	\$0.02543
2014	\$0.04092	\$0.02737
2015	\$0.04296	\$0.02888

LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Feb, 2012	\$0.02963
Mar, 2012	\$0.02894
April, 2012	\$0.02659
May, 2012	\$0.02816
June, 2012	\$0.03089
July, 2012	\$0.04303
Aug, 2012	\$0.03112
Sep, 2012	\$0.03034
Oct, 2012	\$0.02829
Nov, 2012	\$0.03327
Dec, 2012	\$0.03081
Jan, 2013	\$0.03111
Feb 1–Feb 28, 2013	\$0.03219

Extended Temperature Forecast:

Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	33	34	34	37	43
Low	28	25	23	28	30

