**Plain Language Summary**

**Current Introduction Number:**

Int. No. 372

**Prime Sponsors:**

By The Speaker (Council Member Adams) and Council Members Yeger, Louis, Nurse, Krishnan, Narcisse, Abreu, Restler, Ossé, De La Rosa, Dinowitz and Williams (by request of the Manhattan Borough President)

**Bill Title:**

A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to the creation of an office of the utility advocate within the department of consumer and worker protection

**Bill Summary:**

**This plain language summary is for informational purposes only and does not substitute for legal counsel. For more information, you should review the full text of the bill, which is available online at legistar.council.nyc.gov.**

This bill would establish an Office of the Utility Advocate within the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection. The Office would be charged with receiving feedback from City customers on their utility providers; advocating for utility customers to utility companies, the New York State Public Service Commission and any other entity with jurisdiction over the utility companies; assisting utility customers with accessing financial help to pay their utility bills; and educating City utility customers on their rights and methods to lower their utility bills. The Office would also be required to submit an annual report summarizing the issues experienced by utility customers and rating the performance of Con Ed and National Grid during the previous period; making recommendations on government action to help ensure utility companies better serve the public; and providing information on the communications received from the public about their utility services.

**Effective Date:**

120 days after becoming law

**Legislative Impact:**

[x]  **Agency Rulemaking Required**: Is City agency rulemaking required?

[x]  **Report Required**: Is a report due to Council required?

[ ]  **Sunset Date Included**: Does the legislation have a sunset date?

[ ]  **Council Appointment Required**: Is an appointment by the Council required?

[ ]  **Other Appointment Required**: Are other appointments not by the Council required?

**Note:** In the full bill text online at legistar.council.nyc.gov, language in proposed consolidated laws that is enclosed by [brackets] would be deleted, and language that is underlined would be new. Language in proposed unconsolidated laws, in contrast, will not have brackets or underlining because it would be entirely new. Consolidation means that the law would be placed in the New York City Charter or Administrative Code.

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LS #514, 5845, 8356, 8423

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