

Opinion: Bill 705 may improve power service but won't automatically cut bills

When	No date given
Where	Panama
Source	prensa
Published	2026-10-21 22:35-05:00
Discovered	2026-10-21 23:00-05:00
Link	https://www.prensa.com/opinion/proyecto-705-vamos-a-pagar-menos-luz/

Summary

An opinion piece in La Prensa argues that the proposed electricity law reform (Bill 705) would strengthen the regulator ASEP and service quality, but does not guarantee lower electricity bills for households.

Details (summary of the article)

La Prensa published an opinion column by a consultant with experience in Panama's power sector, examining what the proposed Bill 705 would and would not do for consumers. The bill aims to improve service quality, strengthen ASEP and make distribution companies answer for failures, including handling complaints and letting the regulator act when supply continuity is at risk. The author stresses that passing the law will not make bills drop the following month. He distinguishes between competition for ownership of a distributor – which by itself does not lower prices – and competition in energy and capacity tenders, which can cut purchase costs and help tariffs. He highlights article 19, which would recognise only useful, verifiable investments and make distributors absorb losses above permitted levels. He also urges households to measure their own consumption (air conditioning, refrigerators, standby equipment) before expecting savings. On rural electrification, he warns from field visits including Chiriquí that extending the grid requires planning for maintenance, local technicians, spare parts and travel costs. His conclusion: the bill brings real benefits, but savings must be explained and verified rather than promised.

Original (es)

Proyecto 705: ¿vamos a pagar menos luz?

El Proyecto 705 puede mejorar el servicio eléctrico y proteger al usuario, pero no garantiza una rebaja automática en la factura de luz.