

Enrolled
House Bill 2599

Sponsored by Representatives BUCKLEY, HOLVEY; Representative PILUSO, Senator MONNES ANDERSON (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to termination of electric or natural gas service; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

(a) **“Heating season” means a billing period for a residential customer of a utility any portion of which occurs between December 1 and February 15.**

(b) **“Residential customer belonging to a protected class” means a person who is a residential customer of a utility who receives state or federal heating assistance and who is:**

(A) **A low-income senior citizen;**

(B) **An active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States;**

(C) **A customer whose household includes a seriously ill individual or a person with a disability;**

(D) **A customer whose household includes a child under the age of 12 months;**

(E) **A customer who belongs to a household where the member of the household whose earnings are the primary source of support for the household has died within the past six months; or**

(F) **A customer who belongs to a household where the member of the household whose earnings are the primary source of support for the household has lost a job within the past six months.**

(c) **“Utility” means a public utility as defined in ORS 757.005, an electric cooperative organized under ORS chapter 62, a municipal utility organized under ORS chapter 225 or a people’s utility district organized under ORS chapter 261.**

(2) **Each utility that provides electric or natural gas service to residential customers shall prepare a report on the utility’s processes that mitigate, for nonpayment of a delinquent account, the termination of electric or natural gas service to a residential customer belonging to a protected class if the termination would occur:**

(a) **During the heating season;**

(b) **On any date for which the National Weather Service forecasts that the temperature of a location both within this state and the service territory of the utility will exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of 12 or more hours; or**

(c) **On any date for which the National Weather Service forecasts that the temperature of a location both within this state and the service territory of the utility will be less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of 12 or more hours.**

(3) A public utility, as defined in ORS 757.005, that provides electric or natural gas services to residential customers shall submit the report described in subsection (2) of this section to the Public Utility Commission no later than November 1, 2015.

(4) Each electric cooperative organized under ORS chapter 62, municipal utility organized under ORS chapter 225 and people's utility district organized under ORS chapter 261 shall submit the report described in subsection (2) of this section to the governing body of the respective electric cooperative, municipal utility or people's utility district no later than November 1, 2015.

SECTION 2. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by House April 28, 2015

Received by Governor:

Repassed by House June 1, 2015

.....M.,....., 2015

Approved:

.....
Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

.....M.,....., 2015

.....
Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

.....
Kate Brown, Governor

Passed by Senate May 28, 2015

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....
Peter Courtney, President of Senate

.....M.,....., 2015

.....
Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State