

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2599

Ordered by the House April 24
Including House Amendments dated April 24

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

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Prohibits public utility from terminating electric or natural gas service to certain residential customers under certain circumstances.]

[Establishes notice requirements for terminating electric or natural gas service to residential customers.]

[Provides other protections from terminating electric or natural gas service to residential customers.]

Requires utility that provides electric or natural gas service to residential customers to prepare report on utility's processes that mitigate, for nonpayment of delinquent accounts, termination of electric or natural gas service to certain residential customers under certain conditions.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to termination of electric or natural gas service; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

7 (b) **"Residential customer belonging to a protected class" means a person who is a resi-**
8 **dential customer of a utility who receives state or federal heating assistance and who is:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (c) **"Utility" means a public utility as defined in ORS 757.005, an electric cooperative or-**
21 **ganized under ORS chapter 62, a municipal utility organized under ORS chapter 225 or a**
22 **people's utility district organized under ORS chapter 261.**

23 (2) **Each utility that provides electric or natural gas service to residential customers**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 shall prepare a report on the utility's processes that mitigate, for nonpayment of a delin-
2 quent account, the termination of electric or natural gas service to a residential customer
3 belonging to a protected class if the termination would occur:

4 (a) During the heating season;

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

8 (c) On any date for which the National Weather Service forecasts that the temperature
9 of a location both within this state and the service territory of the utility will be less than
10 32 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of 12 or more hours.

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

14 (4) The governing body of each electric cooperative organized under ORS chapter 62,
15 municipal utility organized under ORS chapter 225 and people's utility district organized un-
16 der ORS chapter 261 shall submit the report described in subsection (2) of this section to the
17 State Department of Energy no later than November 1, 2015.

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