

House Bill 641

By: Representatives Lim of the 98th, Mathiak of the 82nd, Werkheiser of the 157th, Drenner of the 85th, Lupton of the 83rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 electric services, so as to require that an electric supplier hold the proposed discontinuation
3 of electrical service to a residential consumer who suffers from a serious illness in abeyance
4 for a certain period of time; to provide for notice requirements; to provide for the renewal of
5 such abeyance period; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 3 of Title 46, relating to electrical service, is amended in Code Section 46-3-11,
10 relating to application by electric supplier of discriminatory rates, charges, or service rules
11 or regulations and prohibited acts by electric suppliers generally, by adding a new subsection
12 to read as follows:

13 “(c)(1) A residential consumer of an electric supplier may provide such electric supplier
14 written notice that he or she suffers from a serious illness which would be aggravated by
15 the discontinuation of electric service to such consumer. Such notice shall be made in
16 writing or, if made orally, with written notice being provided to the electric supplier

17 within ten days thereafter. Within ten days of providing such notice to an electric
18 supplier, the residential customer shall furnish the electric supplier a written statement
19 from a physician, county board of health, hospital, or other medical clinic that identifies
20 such illness, provides an estimated duration the consumer will suffer from such illness,
21 and certifies that such illness would be aggravated by the discontinuation of electric
22 service to such consumer.

23 (2) No electric supplier shall discontinue electric service to a residential consumer who
24 complies with the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection for such consumer's
25 nonpayment of a bill and, instead, such electric supplier shall hold such proposed
26 discontinuation of electric service in abeyance for the estimated duration of the serious
27 illness identified in the written statement provided to the electric supplier or a period of
28 one month, whichever is shorter. A residential consumer may renew such abeyance
29 period one additional time for the same illness by repeating the requirements of paragraph
30 (1) of this subsection."

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.