

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 3863

By: Ford, Dollens, Swope,
Fugate, Hefner, and Munson
of the House

and

Thompson (Kristen), Floyd,
and Boren of the Senate

An Act relating to utilities; amending Section 1, Chapter 171, O.S.L. 2023 (17 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 180.12), which relates to exemptions; modifying who may make certain determination; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Utilities

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 171, O.S.L. 2023 (17 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 180.12), is amended to read as follows:

Section 180.12 A. A customer or applicant who has been determined to be a victim of domestic violence, stalking, or harassment, as defined in Section 109 of Title 43 of the Oklahoma Statutes or Section 644 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, by any of the following:

1. An existing protective order;
2. Law enforcement personnel; ~~or~~
3. A designated representative of a certified domestic violence shelter or certified domestic violence program pursuant to Section 18p-6 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; or

4. A designated representative of a domestic violence shelter or domestic violence program operated by a federally recognized Indian tribe,

shall be exempt from the public utility's initial credit and deposit requirements as established by the public utility. This determination shall be evidenced by submission of the certification letter, provided in subsection B of this section, to the public utility. The certification letter expires after ninety (90) days.

B. Certification Letter for Victim of Domestic Violence for Waiver of Initial Utility Deposit:

IF A VALID PROTECTIVE ORDER IS ATTACHED TO THIS FORM, A CERTIFYING AGENCY OR OFFICER DOES NOT NEED TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS.

This letter serves to certify that _____ (Name of Applicant for Service) is a victim of domestic violence, stalking, or harassment, as defined in Section 109 of Title 43 of the Oklahoma Statutes or Section 644 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and therefore has demonstrated satisfactory credit for the purposes of establishing service. The requirement of initial deposit shall be waived for the above named customer. (Only one Certifying Agency is required.)

By my signature, I certify that the following Certifying Agency has determined that, based on the information gathered at the time of intake/assessment/provision of services, the above-named Applicant reported experiences of domestic violence and was assessed to be a victim of domestic violence.

Agency Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

By my signature I certify that I have personally responded to or have confirmed via internal records that an officer of the _____ Police Department has responded to an incident occurring within the municipal boundaries of the _____ (municipality) where the above-named Applicant was reported to be a victim of domestic violence.

Department Representative Signature:

Department Representative Printed Name:

Badge Number (if applicable):

Date: _____

This form expires ninety (90) days from the date of the signature of the certifying individual.

C. The utility shall deem the certification letter and the contents thereof as confidential and exempt from disclosure.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

Passed the House of Representatives the 5th day of March, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 16th day of April, 2024.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____