
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2693 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, MARSHALL, PISCIOTTANO, T. DAVIS, KINSEY,
FREEMAN, GUENST, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG, McNEILL, MADDEN,
SANCHEZ AND HOWARD, JUNE 21, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, JUNE 21, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions, providing
3 for retail electric and gas customer assistance and
4 establishing the Retail Electric and Gas Customer Assistance
5 Program; and making an appropriation.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Title 66 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
9 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

10 CHAPTER 34

11 RETAIL ELECTRIC AND GAS CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

12 Sec.

13 3401. Definitions.

14 3402. Establishment of program.

15 3403. Application.

16 3404. Award of financial assistance.

17 3405. Appropriation.

18 3406. Compliance.

19 3407. Reports.

1 3408. Rules and regulations.

2 § 3401. Definitions.

3 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
4 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
5 context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 "COVID-19." The novel coronavirus as identified in the
7 proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on
8 March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and
9 any renewal of the state of disaster emergency.

10 "Program." The Retail Electric and Gas Customer Assistance
11 Program established under section 3402 (relating to
12 establishment of program).

13 "Retail electric customer." As defined in section 2803
14 (relating to definitions).

15 "Retail gas customer." As defined in section 2202 (relating
16 to definitions).

17 § 3402. Establishment of program.

18 The Retail Electric and Gas Customer Assistance Program is
19 established within the commission to provide financial
20 assistance to retail electric customers and retail gas customers
21 of entities regulated by the commission with accounts in
22 arrears, after January 1, 2020, as a result of the COVID-19
23 pandemic.

24 § 3403. Application.

25 (a) Development and posting of application form.--The
26 commission shall develop a form to be used by a retail electric
27 customer or retail gas customer to apply for financial
28 assistance under the program. The form shall be posted on the
29 commission's publicly accessible Internet website.

30 (b) Required information.--A retail electric customer or

1 retail gas customer applying for financial assistance under the
2 program shall provide the following information:

3 (1) The name, address, telephone number and other
4 contact information for the retail electric customer or
5 retail gas customer.

6 (2) The name, address, telephone number and other
7 contact information of the entity providing the electricity
8 or natural gas to the retail electric customer or retail gas
9 customer.

10 (3) The amount that the retail electric customer or
11 retail gas customer is in arrears with the entity providing
12 the electricity or natural gas, after January 1, 2020, as a
13 result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

14 (4) The amount of financial assistance requested by the
15 retail electric customer or retail gas customer.

16 (5) Any other information deemed necessary by the
17 commission.

18 § 3404. Award of financial assistance.

19 (a) Review and determination.--The commission shall review
20 completed applications for financial assistance under the
21 program and determine whether to award financial assistance to a
22 retail electric customer or retail gas customer and, if so, the
23 amount of the financial assistance.

24 (b) Notification.--The commission shall notify each retail
25 electric customer and retail gas customer that applied for
26 financial assistance under the program of the determination
27 under this section. If financial assistance is denied in whole
28 or in part, the commission shall provide the retail electric
29 customer or retail gas customer with the reason for the denial.

30 (c) Limitation.--Financial assistance shall be awarded on a

1 first-come, first-served basis.

2 § 3405. Appropriation.

3 The sum of \$500,000,000 shall be transferred, from money
4 received by the Commonwealth under Title IX, Subtitle M, section
5 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2,
6 135 Stat. 4) and deposited into the COVID-19 Response Restricted
7 Account, to the General Fund and shall be appropriated to the
8 commission for the purpose of providing financial assistance
9 under the program.

10 § 3406. Compliance.

11 To determine compliance with this chapter, the commission may
12 require that each retail electric customer or retail gas
13 customer that receives financial assistance under the program
14 submit any relevant records or other information regarding the
15 purposes for which the financial assistance is awarded.

16 § 3407. Reports.

17 (a) Requirement.--By September 1 following the effective
18 date of this section, and each September 1 thereafter, and until
19 all appropriated money for the program has been totally
20 expended, the commission shall prepare a report regarding the
21 operation of the program for the immediately preceding fiscal
22 year.

23 (b) Contents.--Each annual report under subsection (a) shall
24 include all of the following information:

25 (1) The number of retail electric customers and retail
26 gas customers that applied for financial assistance during
27 the preceding fiscal year.

28 (2) The number of retail electric customers and retail
29 gas customers that were awarded financial assistance during
30 the preceding fiscal year.

1 (3) The amount of financial assistance awarded under the
2 program to retail electric customers and retail gas customers
3 during the preceding fiscal year.

4 (4) The number of retail electric customers and retail
5 gas customers that were denied, in whole or in part,
6 financial assistance during the preceding fiscal year, along
7 with the reasons for the denials.

8 (5) The amount of appropriated money for the program
9 that has not yet been expended.

10 (6) Situations of noncompliance with the requirements of
11 the program.

12 (7) Any recommendations regarding the administration of
13 the program.

14 (c) Posting and submittal.--Each report under this section
15 shall be posted on the publicly accessible Internet website of
16 the commission and submitted to the following:

17 (1) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
18 Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee of
19 the Senate.

20 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
21 Consumer Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

22 § 3408. Rules and regulations.

23 The commission may adopt or promulgate any rule or regulation
24 necessary to implement the program.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.