

2011 -- S 0285

LC00769

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- TERMINATION OF SERVICE

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Jabour, Goodwin, Perry, and Pichardo

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 39-1.1 of the General Laws entitled "Termination of  
2 Service to Persons Who Are Disabled and Seriously Ill" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~CHAPTER 39-1.1~~

4 ~~TERMINATION OF SERVICE TO PERSONS WHO ARE DISABLED AND SERIOUSLY ILL~~

5 CHAPTER 39-1.1

6 TERMINATION OF SERVICE TO PERSONS WHO ARE DISABLED, SERIOUSLY ILL OR

7 IN ARREARS OF PAYMENT

8 SECTION 2. Section 39-1.1-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1.1 entitled  
9 "Termination of Service to Persons Who Are Disabled and Seriously Ill" is hereby amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 **39-1.1-1. Compliance with rules prior to termination.** – (a) No public utility which  
12 distributes electricity or supplies natural or manufactured gas, electric, or water service shall  
13 terminate service to any household in which all adult residents are sixty-five (65) years of age or  
14 older, or where any resident is disabled or seriously ill, for failure to pay an outstanding  
15 indebtedness for service, without first complying with all rules and regulations for such  
16 terminations issued by the commission.

17 (b) A utility shall not shut off service to a household if the person's bill is three hundred  
18 dollars (\$300) or less and not more than three (3) months in arrears.

19 (c) Service may not be terminated unless two (2) notices of termination have been sent.

1           SECTION 3. Section 39-1.1-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1.1 entitled  
2 "Termination of Service to Persons Who Are Disabled and Seriously Ill" is hereby amended to  
3 read as follows:

4           **39-1.1-2. Determination of persons subject to nontermination.** – (a) The commission  
5 shall promulgate appropriate rules and regulations to determine which persons who are elderly,  
6 disabled, or seriously ill are subject to the nontermination provisions of section 39-1.1-1, and in  
7 what manner relief will be made available to the subject persons.

8           (b) The rules and regulations to determine which persons who are elderly, disabled,  
9 seriously ill, or who have young children in the residence shall be through a short simplified  
10 declaration.

11           (c) In the case of the elderly a declaration of age stating the occupant's name, date of  
12 birth and the name of the person billed will be sufficient.

13           SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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- 1           This act would amend the process of the termination of service to the elderly, disabled
- 2 and seriously ill by simplifying the regulations and rules, instituting rules for a person in arrears
- 3 of payment, and changing the chapter name.
- 4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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