

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 1875

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the House Committee on Commerce and Energy

4 on _____)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Helmer)

6 A BILL to require investor-owned electric utilities and electric cooperatives to limit service termination
7 for residential utility customers with a serious medical condition; report.

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

9 1. § 1. That the State Corporation Commission (the Commission), in order to promote public health and
10 safety, shall conduct a proceeding for the purpose of establishing limitations on the authority of public
11 utilities that provide electric, gas, or water or wastewater services to terminate service to the residence of
12 any customer who provides the certification of a licensed physician or a nurse practitioner that the
13 customer has a serious medical condition or the customer resides with a family member with a serious
14 medical condition. The limitations shall be consistent with the public interest. In the proceeding
15 establishing such limitations, the Commission shall consult with the Commissioner of Health, the
16 Commissioner of Social Services, the Virginia Poverty Law Center, the Virginia League of Social
17 Services Executives, electric utilities, and any other persons that the Commission deems appropriate. As
18 a part of the proceeding, the Commission shall adopt regulations to implement such limitations. The
19 regulations shall include a form by which a residential utility customer with a serious medical condition
20 may apply for a delay in termination of service as provided by this act. The Commission shall make all
21 reasonable efforts to ensure that this form is as accessible as possible for residential utility customers. The
22 regulations shall (i) be adopted in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure; (ii)
23 be effective not later than July 1, 2024; (iii) establish a cost recovery mechanism under which electric
24 utilities shall be authorized to recover, from approved rates collected from other customers or other sources
25 of revenue, any losses on customer accounts the balance of which is written off or otherwise determined
26 to be uncollectible as the result of the implementation of the regulations; and (iv) define "serious medical

27 condition." No later than November 1, 2026, and every three years thereafter, the Commission shall submit
28 a report to the General Assembly on the effectiveness of the serious medical condition policy after
29 implementation and shall include any suggested changes to improve accessibility to such policy for
30 residential utility customers.

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