

HOUSE BILL NO. 664

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Commerce and Energy

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Kory)

A BILL to direct the State Corporation Commission to establish by regulation exemptions to termination of service by a public utility for certain customers; serious medical condition; report.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. A. The State Corporation Commission (the Commission) shall, no later than January 1, 2023, adopt revisions to its regulations governing disconnection of electric or water service in 20VAC5-330-20. Such revised regulations shall be applicable to any public utility that provides electric, gas, water, or wastewater service to retail customers pursuant to rates, terms, and conditions of service approved by the Commission. Such revised regulations shall include a requirement that public utilities delay termination of service for residential customers consistent with the provisions of this act.

1. With regard to any residential customer who has not filed a serious medical condition certification form, as defined in subsection E, with the public utility, the public utility shall delay termination of service for 30 calendar days upon oral or written notification from the residential customer that such customer or a family member residing with such customer has a serious medical condition. Upon receipt of a serious medical condition certification form within such 30-calendar-day delay period, the public utility shall delay termination of service for a minimum of 60 calendar days beyond the expiration of any required notice.

2. With regard to any residential customer who has filed a serious medical condition certification form with a public utility or who lives with an infant under the age of 12 months, the public utility shall delay termination of service for a minimum of 60 calendar days beyond the expiration of any required notice.

26 3. With regard to any residential customer whose serious medical condition or whose family
27 member's serious medical condition will endure beyond the 60-calendar-day delay granted under
28 subdivision 1 or 2, the public utility shall work with such customer to establish a payment plan and make
29 all due effort to avoid service termination upon the expiration of the 60-calendar-day delay.

30 B. A public utility shall permit any residential customer located within its service territory to delay
31 termination of service pursuant to subsection A at least three times within a 12-month period.

32 C. Upon the Commission's revision of regulations as required by this act, each public utility shall
33 notify its customers who are at least 30 days in arrears of the potential opportunity to delay termination of
34 service as described in subsection A. Such notice may be transmitted as a bill insert or as a separate notice.

35 E. As used in this act:

36 "Serious medical condition" has the same meaning as provided in the Commission's regulations
37 governing limitations on disconnection of electric or water service in 20VAC5-330-20.

38 "Serious medical condition certification form" has the same meaning as provided in the
39 Commission's regulations governing limitations on disconnection of electric or water service in 20VAC5-
40 330-20, as revised pursuant to this act. The revised regulations shall provide that nurse practitioners and
41 physician assistants are authorized to sign and certify serious medical condition certification forms.

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