



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

**Raised Bill No. 1331**

LCO No. 4407

\*04407\_\_\_\_\_ET\_\*

Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:  
(ET)

**AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 16-262c of the  
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (b) (1) From November first to April fifteenth, inclusive, no electric  
5 or electric distribution company, as defined in section 16-1, no electric  
6 supplier and no municipal utility furnishing electricity shall terminate  
7 or refuse to reinstate residential electric service in hardship cases  
8 where the customer lacks the financial resources to pay his or her  
9 entire account. From November first to April fifteenth, inclusive, no  
10 gas company and no municipal utility furnishing gas shall terminate or  
11 refuse to reinstate residential gas service in hardship cases where the  
12 customer uses such gas for heat and lacks the financial resources to  
13 pay his or her entire account, and has applied for benefits under the  
14 Connecticut energy assistance program or state appropriated fuel  
15 assistance program, except a gas company that, between April  
16 sixteenth and October thirty-first, terminated gas service to a  
17 residential customer who uses gas for heat and who, during the

18 previous period of November first to April fifteenth, had gas service  
19 maintained because of hardship status, may refuse to reinstate the gas  
20 service from November first to April fifteenth, inclusive, only if the  
21 customer has failed to pay, since the preceding November first, the  
22 lesser of: (A) Twenty per cent of the outstanding principal balance  
23 owed the gas company as of the date of termination, (B) one hundred  
24 dollars, or (C) the minimum payments due under the customer's  
25 amortization agreement. Notwithstanding any other provision of the  
26 general statutes to the contrary, no electric, electric distribution or gas  
27 company, no electric supplier and no municipal utility furnishing  
28 electricity or gas shall terminate or refuse to reinstate residential  
29 electric or gas service where the customer lacks the financial resources  
30 to pay his or her entire account and for which customer or a member  
31 of the customer's household the termination or failure to reinstate such  
32 service would create a life-threatening situation.

33 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 16-262d of the general statutes is  
34 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
35 *passage*):

36 (b) No such company, electric supplier or municipal utility shall  
37 effect termination of service for nonpayment during such time as any  
38 resident of a dwelling to which such service is furnished is seriously ill,  
39 if the fact of such serious illness and the necessity of utility service  
40 because of such serious illness is certified to such company, electric  
41 supplier or municipal utility by a registered physician within such  
42 period of time after the mailing of a termination notice pursuant to  
43 subsection (a) of this section as the Department of Public Utility  
44 Control may by regulation establish, provided the customer agrees to  
45 amortize the unpaid balance of his account over a reasonable period of  
46 time and keeps current his account for utility service as charges accrue  
47 in each subsequent billing period.

48 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The owner, agent, lessor or  
49 manager of a building shall, when requested in writing by a public

50 service company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, that  
51 provides utility service to a premise not occupied exclusively by such  
52 owner, agent, lessor or manager of such building, provide access to  
53 equipment that is the property of such electric, electric distribution,  
54 gas, telephone or water company or municipal utility and is located on  
55 or in such building for purposes of maintenance or termination of  
56 service. Any such owner, agent, lessor or manager who fails to provide  
57 such access not later than seven days after the date of request for  
58 access shall be liable for payment of utility service provided to the  
59 building from the date of notice until the date that access is provided.  
60 If it becomes necessary for an electric, electric distribution, gas,  
61 telephone or water company or municipal utility to incur incremental  
62 costs to terminate service because of failure to grant access to the  
63 premises after such written notice is issued, such electric, electric  
64 distribution, gas, telephone or water company or municipal utility  
65 shall bill such incremental costs to the owner, agent, lessor or manager  
66 of the building.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	16-262c(b)(1)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	16-262d(b)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To increase the number of customers receiving energy assistance, to make a technical adjustment to section 16-262d of the general statutes and to allow public service companies and municipal utilities access to inaccessible meters and equipment.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*