



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 487

January Session, 2011

Substitute House Bill No. 6405

House of Representatives, April 7, 2011

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. NARDELLO of the 89th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATION OF SERIOUSLY ILL UTILITY CUSTOMERS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 16-262d of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2011*):

4 (b) No such company, electric supplier or municipal utility shall
5 effect termination of service for nonpayment during such time as any
6 resident of a dwelling to which such service is furnished is seriously ill,
7 if the fact of such serious illness is certified to such company, electric
8 supplier or municipal utility by a registered physician or an advanced
9 practice registered nurse within such period of time after the mailing
10 of a termination notice pursuant to subsection (a) of this section as the
11 Department of Public Utility Control may by regulation establish,
12 provided the customer agrees to amortize the unpaid balance of his
13 account over a reasonable period of time and keeps current his account

14 for utility service as charges accrue in each subsequent billing period.
15 For the purposes of this subsection, "serious illness" means a medical
16 condition that would endanger the life of any resident of a dwelling if
17 utility service to such resident's dwelling was terminated.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2011	16-262d(b)

ET *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which makes clarifications and defines "serious illness," does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6405*****AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATION OF SERIOUSLY ILL UTILITY CUSTOMERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to certify that a utility company's customer is "seriously ill" and thus protected from the utility's termination of service for nonpayment, subject to certain requirements, over the course of the illness. It defines a "serious illness" as a medical condition that would become life threatening without utility service. Current law allows only a registered physician to certify the customer's illness and does not specifically define a "serious illness".

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

BACKGROUND***Protection for Seriously Ill Utility Customers***

By law, a utility cannot terminate residential service for nonpayment if a registered physician certifies that any resident of the home serviced by the utility is seriously ill. When a utility extends its services under these circumstances, the customer must enter into a payment plan to pay off any unpaid balances and keep current with any subsequent charges for the account.

Related Bill

House Bill 6403, favorably reported by the Energy & Technology Committee, prohibits electric and gas utility companies from terminating, denying, or refusing to reinstate service to residences between October 1st and June 1st if the customer (1) is a hardship case, (2) cannot pay his or her entire account, and (3) resides with a child under two-years old who was discharged from a hospital admission

with discharge papers stating that utility service was needed for 60 days.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/22/2011)