



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 600

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 121

Senate, April 13, 2015

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through SEN. DOYLE of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION
PROTOCOLS FOR MINORS SEEKING TO MAINTAIN ACCOUNTS
WITH PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) A public service
2 company shall verify the validity of a potential customer's Social
3 Security number prior to opening a customer account to ensure that
4 such Social Security number does not belong to a minor, as defined in
5 section 1-1d of the general statutes. A public service company shall
6 cross reference the Social Security number provided with such
7 customer's legal name, aliases, date of birth, age, current address and
8 phone number. A public service company may use a third-party
9 company to carry out the purpose of this subsection.

10 (b) In any action by a public service company against a customer for
11 an unpaid bill, the customer shall not be liable if, at the time of the
12 opening of the customer account, such customer was a minor and the
13 customer account was opened by another person using the minor's

14 Social Security number.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), the word "section" was deleted and the word "subsection" was inserted for accuracy. In Section 1(b), the word "person" was inserted for clarity.

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 requires public service companies to verify a potential customer's Social Security Number before opening an account, and prohibits said companies from holding customers liable for unpaid bills if the customer was a minor when the account was opened. This bill has no fiscal impact on the state or municipalities as ratepayers.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 121*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION PROTOCOLS FOR MINORS SEEKING TO MAINTAIN ACCOUNTS WITH PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires public service companies (i.e., utilities) to verify a potential customer's Social Security number (SSN) before opening an account to ensure that the SSN does not belong to a minor (i.e., someone under the age of 18). The bill requires public service companies to cross reference the provided SSN with the customer's (1) legal name, (2) aliases, (3) date of birth, (4) current address, and (5) phone number. Under the bill, the public service company may use a third-party company to verify SSNs.

The bill also prohibits public service companies from holding customers liable for unpaid bills if (1) the customer was a minor when he or she opened the account and (2) another person opened the account using the minor's SSN.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Public Service Companies***

Under the utility statutes, public service companies include electric distribution, gas, telephone, pipeline, sewage, water, and community antenna television companies and cable TV companies. Public service companies do not include (1) towns, cities, boroughs, or any municipal corporation or (2) competitive gas and electric suppliers (CGS § 16-1(a)(3)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/24/2015)