

HOUSE BILL 261

C5

7lr0764

By: **Delegates Jackson, Angel, Knotts, Krimm, and Tarlau**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2017

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 14, 2017

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utilities – Termination of Service to Multifamily Dwelling**
3 **Unit – Notification to Property Owner or Property Manager**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a public service company that is going to terminate, because
5 of nonpayment, electric or gas service to a certain customer to notify a certain
6 property owner or property manager before terminating service if the property owner
7 or property manager has enrolled in a certain notification program; requiring a
8 public service company to provide the notice only to certain persons under certain
9 circumstances; requiring a certain property owner or property manager to obtain
10 certain consent from a customer in order to enroll in a certain termination program;
11 providing for the construction of this Act; ~~requiring~~ authorizing the Public Service
12 Commission to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to termination of
13 electric or gas service.

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Public Utilities
16 Section 7–307.3
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Public Utilities**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 7-307.3.

2 (A) ~~SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, IF A~~ A PUBLIC SERVICE
3 COMPANY ~~IS GOING TO TERMINATE THAT TERMINATES, BECAUSE OF NONPAYMENT,~~
4 ELECTRIC OR GAS SERVICE TO A CUSTOMER WHO RESIDES IN A MULTIFAMILY
5 DWELLING UNIT, ~~THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY~~ SHALL NOTIFY THE PROPERTY
6 OWNER OR PROPERTY MANAGER OF THE MULTIFAMILY DWELLING UNIT BEFORE
7 TERMINATING SERVICE TO THE CUSTOMER IF THE PROPERTY OWNER OR PROPERTY
8 MANAGER HAS ENROLLED IN A THIRD-PARTY TERMINATION NOTIFICATION
9 PROGRAM.

10 (B) A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY MAY ONLY PROVIDE NOTICE OF
11 TERMINATION UNDER THIS SECTION TO A PROPERTY OWNER OR PROPERTY
12 MANAGER WHO ~~ENROLLS IN A SERVICE TERMINATION NOTIFICATION PROGRAM~~
13 ~~ESTABLISHED UNDER REGULATIONS THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPTS:~~

14 (1) NOTIFIES THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF THE PROPERTY
15 OWNER'S OR PROPERTY MANAGER'S ENROLLMENT IN A THIRD-PARTY
16 NOTIFICATION PROGRAM; AND

17 (2) PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION THAT THE PROPERTY OWNER OR
18 PROPERTY MANAGER OBTAINED THE CUSTOMER'S WRITTEN CONSENT
19 AUTHORIZING THE PROPERTY OWNER OR PROPERTY MANAGER TO RECEIVE THE
20 CUSTOMER'S NOTICE OF TERMINATION.

21 (C) IN ORDER FOR A PROPERTY OWNER OR PROPERTY MANAGER TO
22 ENROLL IN A THIRD-PARTY NOTIFICATION PROGRAM, THE PROPERTY OWNER OR
23 PROPERTY MANAGER SHALL OBTAIN THE CUSTOMER'S WRITTEN CONSENT
24 AUTHORIZING THE PROPERTY OWNER OR PROPERTY MANAGER TO RECEIVE THE
25 CUSTOMER'S NOTICE OF TERMINATION FROM THE THIRD-PARTY NOTIFICATION
26 PROGRAM.

27 (D) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT ANY
28 OTHER FORM OF THIRD-PARTY NOTIFICATION THAT A CUSTOMER MAY REQUEST.

29 ~~(D)~~ (E) THE COMMISSION ~~SHALL~~ MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY
30 OUT THIS SECTION.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 October 1, 2017.