

SB0031/997578/1

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 31

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “**Energy Suppliers – Supply Offers**” and substitute “**Consumer Relations – Early Termination Fees and Rate Regulations and Education**”; strike beginning with “requiring” in line 3 down through “practices” in line 16 and substitute “prohibiting an electricity or gas supplier from charging an early termination fee to a residential electric or gas customer who receives energy assistance through a program administered by the Office of Home Energy Programs; requiring the Public Service Commission to adopt certain regulations on or before a certain date; requiring the Office to provide certain educational materials to certain customers; requiring the Office to develop the educational materials in coordination with the Commission and interested stakeholders; defining certain terms”; and in line 20, strike “4–308” and substitute “7–312”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 25, insert:

“7–312.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “CUSTOMER” MEANS A RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC OR GAS CUSTOMER WHO RECEIVES ENERGY ASSISTANCE THROUGH A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE.

(3) “OFFICE” MEANS THE OFFICE OF HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS.

(Over)

(4) “PRICE TO COMPARE” MEANS THE TOTAL COST OF STANDARD OFFER SERVICE OR THE GAS COMMODITY RATE FOR A 12-MONTH PERIOD.

(B) AN ELECTRICITY OR GAS SUPPLIER MAY NOT CHARGE AN EARLY TERMINATION FEE TO A CUSTOMER.

(C) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS:

(1) REQUIRING ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANIES TO NOTIFY THIRD-PARTY RETAIL SUPPLIERS WHEN A CUSTOMER RECEIVES ENERGY ASSISTANCE THROUGH A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE;

(2) ESTABLISHING A PRICE TO COMPARE;

(3) REQUIRING THIRD-PARTY RETAIL SUPPLIERS TO:

(I) CHARGE CUSTOMERS AT OR BELOW THE PRICE TO COMPARE; OR

(II) FACILITATE TRANSITIONING CUSTOMERS TO STANDARD OFFER SERVICE OR THE GAS COMMODITY RATE; AND

(4) ESTABLISHING A CUSTOMER EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT:

(I) EDUCATES CUSTOMERS ON THE BENEFITS OF COMPARISON SHOPPING FOR ELECTRIC AND GAS SERVICE;

(II) TEACHES CUSTOMERS HOW TO SHOP FOR AND COMPARE ELECTRIC AND GAS SERVICE;

(III) INFORMS CUSTOMERS HOW TO ACCESS THE COMMISSION'S CUSTOMER CHOICE SHOPPING WEBSITE; AND

(IV) PROVIDES THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED IN ITEMS (I) THROUGH (III) OF THIS ITEM TO CUSTOMERS ON A QUARTERLY BASIS.

(D) (1) THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE TO A CUSTOMER EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS THAT:

(I) STATE THE BENEFITS OF COMPARISON SHOPPING FOR ELECTRIC AND GAS SERVICE;

(II) DESCRIBE HOW TO SHOP FOR ELECTRIC AND GAS SERVICE;

(III) INCLUDE A LIST OF STANDARD OFFER SERVICE AND THIRD-PARTY RETAIL SUPPLIERS; AND

(IV) STATE THAT, IF THE CUSTOMER RECEIVES ELECTRIC OR GAS SERVICE FROM A THIRD-PARTY RETAIL SUPPLIER THAT COSTS MORE THAN THE PRICE TO COMPARE, THE THIRD-PARTY RETAIL SUPPLIER MUST:

1. OFFER SERVICE AT OR BELOW THE PRICE TO COMPARE; OR

**2. FACILITATE TRANSITIONING THE CUSTOMER TO
STANDARD OFFER SERVICE OR THE GAS COMMODITY RATE.**

**(2) THE OFFICE SHALL DEVELOP THE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN COORDINATION WITH
THE COMMISSION AND INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS.”.**

On pages 2 and 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 1 on page 2 through line 22 on page 3, inclusive.