

BY: Environmental Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 126

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 5, after “provisions;” insert “requiring a steam heating company to abide by a certain rate structure for a certain period; requiring a steam heating company to maintain service to certain customers for a certain period; requiring certain notice to certain persons; authorizing certain customers to file a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Protection, for certain violations; requiring the Division to investigate certain allegations and proceed in accordance with certain provisions of law; providing that a violation of certain provisions of this Act shall be considered a violation under certain other provisions of law;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, after line 20, insert:

“SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1 of this Act:

(1) until October 1, 2002, a steam heating company that was subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission as of September 30, 1999 shall:

(i) be bound by any rate structure that was in effect for the company on September 30, 1999; and

(ii) maintain service to its customers, unless:

A. the customer chooses not to be served; or

B. the customer fails to comply with the terms of the service agreement in place on September 30, 1999.

(Over)

(2) on or before December 1, 1999, a steam heating company that ceases to be a regulated public service company under this Act shall notify its customers of the provisions and effect of this Act, and of the continuing effect of subsection (1) of this section; and

(3) a customer who is subjected to a violation of subsection (1) of this section may file a written complaint with the Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Protection. After the filing of a complaint, the Division shall investigate the allegations to ascertain the issues and facts, and proceed in accordance with §§ 13-401 through 13-409 of the Commercial Law Article. For the purpose of enforcing subsection (1) of this section, a violation of subsection (1) of this section shall be considered a violation under Title 13 of the Commercial Law Article.”;

and in line 21, strike “3.” and substitute “4.”.