

## CHAPTER 346

(House Bill 453)

AN ACT concerning

### **Public Service Companies – Termination of Electric and Gas Service – Extreme Temperatures**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a public service company from terminating electric or gas service to a residential customer in a certain area because of nonpayment on a day for which the forecasted high temperature in the area is at or below a certain temperature; prohibiting a public service company from terminating electric service to a residential customer in a certain area because of nonpayment on ~~certain days if~~ a day for which the forecasted ~~heat index~~ temperature in the area is at or above a certain ~~level;~~ temperature; requiring the Public Service Commission to require certain public service companies to designate certain weather station areas for certain purposes; providing for the construction of this Act; requiring the ~~Public Service~~ Commission to adopt regulations to carry out this Act; and generally relating to public service companies and the termination of electric and gas service to residential customers.

BY adding to

Article – Public Utility Companies

Section 7–307.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

#### **Article – Public Utility Companies**

##### **7–307.1.**

(A) A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY MAY NOT TERMINATE ELECTRIC OR GAS SERVICE TO A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER IN A DESIGNATED WEATHER STATION AREA BECAUSE OF NONPAYMENT ON A DAY FOR WHICH THE FORECASTED HIGH TEMPERATURE IS 32 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR BELOW IN THAT WEATHER STATION AREA.

(B) A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY MAY NOT TERMINATE ELECTRIC SERVICE TO A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER IN A DESIGNATED WEATHER STATION AREA BECAUSE OF NONPAYMENT;

~~(1)~~ ON A DAY FOR WHICH THE FORECASTED ~~HEAT INDEX~~ TEMPERATURE IS 95 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR ABOVE IN THAT WEATHER STATION AREA;~~OR~~

~~(2) ON THE DAY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING A DAY FOR WHICH THE FORECASTED HEAT INDEX IS 95 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR ABOVE.~~

(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY THAT PROVIDES ELECTRIC OR GAS SERVICE TO DESIGNATE AND FILE WITH THE COMMISSION DESIGNATED WEATHER STATION AREAS WITHIN ITS SERVICE TERRITORY FOR USE IN ADMINISTERING THE RESTRICTIONS ON WEATHER-RELATED TERMINATIONS UNDER SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B) OF THIS SECTION.

(D) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION TO ADOPT, BY REGULATION OR ORDER, ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS ON TERMINATION OF ELECTRIC OR GAS SERVICE THAT ARE MORE PROTECTIVE OF CONSUMERS.

~~(E)~~ (E) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2009.

**Approved by the Governor, May 7, 2009.**