

HOUSE BILL 128

C5

6lr1670

By: **Delegate Jackson**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2016

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: February 26, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a public service company that is going to terminate electric
5 or gas service to a certain customer to notify a certain property owner or property
6 manager before terminating service; requiring a public service company to provide
7 the notice only to certain persons under certain circumstances; providing for the
8 construction of this Act; requiring the Public Service Commission to adopt certain
9 regulations; and generally relating to termination of electric or gas service.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Public Utilities

12 Section 7–307.3

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Public Utilities**

18 **7–307.3.**

19 **(A) ~~IF~~ SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, IF A PUBLIC SERVICE**
20 **COMPANY IS GOING TO TERMINATE ELECTRIC OR GAS SERVICE TO A CUSTOMER WHO**

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 RESIDES IN A MULTIFAMILY DWELLING UNIT, THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY SHALL
 2 NOTIFY THE PROPERTY OWNER OR PROPERTY MANAGER OF THE MULTIFAMILY
 3 DWELLING UNIT BEFORE TERMINATING SERVICE TO THE CUSTOMER.

4 (B) A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY MAY ONLY PROVIDE NOTICE OF
 5 TERMINATION UNDER THIS SECTION TO A PROPERTY OWNER OR PROPERTY
 6 MANAGER WHO ENROLLS IN A SERVICE TERMINATION NOTIFICATION PROGRAM
 7 ESTABLISHED UNDER REGULATIONS THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPTS.

8 (C) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO:

9 (1) PREVENT ANY OTHER FORM OF THIRD-PARTY NOTIFICATION
 10 THAT A CUSTOMER MAY REQUEST;

11 (2) ALTER ANY LIABILITY OF, OR IMPOSE ANY NEW LIABILITY ON, A
 12 PROPERTY OWNER OR PROPERTY MANAGER FOR ANY ACTION TAKEN UNDER THIS
 13 SECTION; OR

14 (3) INTERFERE WITH THE ABILITY OF A PROPERTY OWNER OR
 15 PROPERTY MANAGER TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR A CUSTOMER ACCOUNT AND
 16 RECOVER PAYMENT OF AN ARREARAGE DUE AS RENT.

17 (D) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS
 18 SECTION.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 20 October 1, 2016.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.