

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2691 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, MARSHALL, PISCIOTTANO, PARKER, T. DAVIS, KINSEY, FREEMAN, GUENST, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG, DELLOSO, McNEILL, GUZMAN, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, CIRESI, HOWARD AND MALAGARI, JUNE 21, 2022

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 28, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in responsible utility customer
3 protection, further providing for definitions, for
4 termination of utility service and for reporting of
5 recipients of public assistance.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The definition of "LIHEAP" in section 1403 of
9 Title 66 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to
10 read:

11 § 1403. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
13 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 * * *

16 "LIHEAP" or "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program." A
17 federally funded program that provides financial assistance in
18 the form of cash and crisis grants to low-income households for

1 home energy bills and is administered by the Department of
2 [Public Welfare.] Human Services. A LIHEAP application shall be
3 accepted until all available money is expended.

4 * * *

5 Section 2. Sections 1406(g) and 1413 of Title 66 are amended
6 to read:

7 § 1406. Termination of utility service.

8 * * *

9 (g) Qualification for LIHEAP.--A notice of termination OR A <--
10 NOTICE OF A PAST DUE BILL to a customer of a public utility
11 shall be sufficient proof of a crisis for a customer with the
12 requisite income level to receive a LIHEAP Crisis Grant from the
13 Department of [Public Welfare] Human Services or its designee as
14 soon as practicable after the date of the notice. Termination of
15 service is not necessary to demonstrate sufficient proof of
16 crisis.

17 * * *

18 § 1413. Reporting of recipients of public assistance.

19 The Department of [Public Welfare] Human Services shall
20 annually provide a city natural gas distribution operation with
21 the listing of recipients of public assistance in a city of the
22 first class. A city natural gas distribution operation shall not
23 use the listing for anything but qualification and continued
24 eligibility for a customer assistance program or LIHEAP.

25 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.