
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2920 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY RABB, KENYATTA, HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, BROOKS,
D. WILLIAMS, PARKER, MADDEN, SIMS AND CONKLIN,
NOVEMBER 9, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, NOVEMBER 9, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 53 (Municipalities Generally) and 66 (Public
2 Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in
3 municipal authorities, providing for utility reconnection
4 fees; and, in responsible utility customer protection,
5 further providing for termination of utility service and for
6 reconnection of service.

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

9 Section 1. Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
10 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

11 § 5624. Utility reconnection fees.

12 (a) Fee.--An authority or municipality may only charge a
13 reconnection fee for a utility or service reconnection within
14 the authority's or municipality's jurisdiction if the customer's
15 household income is greater than 300% of the Federal poverty
16 level.

17 (b) Exception.--A customer may not be required to pay a
18 reconnection fee or an overdue balance prior to reconnection of
19 a utility or service under the authority's or municipality's

1 jurisdiction if:

2 (1) The customer's household income is no greater than
3 300% of the Federal poverty level.

4 (2) The customer and authority or municipality have
5 entered into a repayment plan agreement to bring any
6 arrearages current. All repayment plans must be based on the
7 household income of the customer. Arrearage repayments shall
8 not exceed 5% of the household monthly income of the
9 customer.

10 (c) Summer termination.--Notwithstanding any other provision
11 of this chapter, an authority or municipality that provides
12 electricity may not terminate a customer's electricity between
13 June 1 and September 30 of each year if the customer's household
14 income is no greater than 300% of the Federal poverty level.

15 Section 2. Section 1406(a) introductory paragraph of Title
16 66 is amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection
17 to read:

18 § 1406. Termination of utility service.

19 (a) Authorized termination.--[A] Except as provided for
20 under subsection (e.1), a public utility may notify a customer
21 and terminate service provided to a customer after notice as
22 provided in subsection (b) for any of the following actions by
23 the customer:

24 * * *

25 (e.1) Summer termination.--Notwithstanding any other
26 provision of this chapter, a utility that provides electricity
27 may not terminate a customer's electricity between June 1 and
28 September 30 of each year if the customer's household income is
29 no greater than 300% of the Federal poverty level.

30 * * *

1 Section 3. Section 1407(c)(2) of Title 66 is amended and the
2 subsection is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

3 § 1407. Reconnection of service.

4 * * *

5 (c) Payment to restore service.--

6 * * *

7 (2) [A] Except as provided for under paragraph (2.1), a
8 public utility may require[:

9 (i) Full] full payment of any outstanding balance
10 incurred together with any reconnection fees by the
11 customer or applicant prior to reconnection of service if
12 the customer or applicant has an income exceeding 300% of
13 the Federal poverty level or has defaulted on two or more
14 payment arrangements. If a customer or applicant with
15 household income exceeding 300% of the Federal poverty
16 level experiences a life event, the customer shall be
17 permitted a period of not more than [three] nine months
18 to pay the outstanding balance required for reconnection.
19 For purposes of this subparagraph, a life event is:

20 [(A)] (i) A job loss that extended beyond nine
21 months.

22 [(B)] (ii) A serious illness that extended
23 beyond nine months.

24 [(C)] (iii) Death of the primary wage earner.

25 [(ii) Full payment of any reconnection fees together
26 with repayment over 12 months of any outstanding balance
27 incurred by the customer or applicant if the customer or
28 applicant has an income exceeding 150% of the Federal
29 poverty level but not greater than 300% of the Federal
30 poverty level.]

1 (iii) Full payment of any reconnection fees together
2 with payment over 24 months of any outstanding balance
3 incurred by the customer or applicant if the customer or
4 applicant has an income not exceeding 150% of the Federal
5 poverty level. A customer or applicant of a city natural
6 gas distribution operation whose household income does
7 not exceed 135% of the Federal poverty level shall be
8 reinstated pursuant to this subsection only if the
9 customer or applicant enrolls in the customer assistance
10 program of the city natural gas distribution operation
11 except that this requirement shall not apply if the
12 financial benefits to such customer or applicant are
13 greater if served outside of that assistance program.]

14 (2.1) A customer or applicant with an income no greater
15 than 300% of the Federal poverty level shall not be required
16 to pay an outstanding balance in full or reconnection fee
17 prior to the restoration of service. A public utility shall
18 enter into a repayment plan with the customer or applicant
19 for any arrearages. All repayment plans must be based on the
20 household income of the customer or applicant. Arrearage
21 repayments shall not exceed 5% of the household monthly
22 income of the customer.

23 * * *

24 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.