

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1988

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ELLINGTON.

5315H.021

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 386, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to charges imposed by utilities on customers.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 386, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be  
2 known as section 386.810, to read as follows:

3 **386.810. 1. The provisions of this section shall be known and may be cited as the**  
4 **"Customer Utility Protection Act".**

5 **2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a public utility discontinues**  
6 **service for any customer for any reason, such public utility shall not charge such customer**  
7 **fees or any other penalties in excess of the fees allowed under this section for reconnecting**  
8 **the service. Such customer's payments for the utility's service shall not increase as a result**  
9 **of the discontinuation of service, except as allowed under this section.**

10 **3. A public utility may charge a one-time fee for reconnecting its services after a**  
11 **discontinuation of service. Such one-time fee shall not exceed twenty dollars.**

12 **4. A public utility may charge a customer, whose service it has discontinued and**  
13 **then reconnected, a monthly fee over a twelve-month period beginning with the date that**  
14 **the utility reconnected the service. Such monthly fee shall not exceed five dollars. The**  
utility may charge such monthly fee in addition to the one-time fee described under  
subsection 3 of this section.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

15           **5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a public utility shall not require a**  
16 **customer to pay more than ten percent of any balance owed to the utility in order to receive**  
17 **restoration of service.**

18           **6. If a public utility seeks a rate increase, the public utility may use, as evidence in**  
19 **any proceeding related to the proposed rate increase, any losses under this section.**

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