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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND  
CARRIERS

Introduced By: Representatives Costantino, Nunes, Trillo, Giarrusso, and Marcello

Date Introduced: February 27, 2013

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 39-2 of the General Laws entitled "Duties of Utilities and Carriers"  
2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **39-2-1.5 Reasonable and adequate services -- Reasonable and just charges. --**  
4 **Commercial customers. --** (a) Every public utility is required to furnish safe, reasonable, and  
5 adequate services and facilities. The rate, toll, or charge, or any joint rate made, exacted,  
6 demand, or collected by any public utility for the conveyance or transportation of any persons  
7 or property, including sewage, between points within the state, or for any heat, light, water, or  
8 power produced, transmitted, distributed, delivered, or furnished, or for any telephone or  
9 telegraph message conveyed or for any service rendered or to be rendered in connection  
10 therewith, shall be reasonable and just, and every unjust or unreasonable charge for the service is  
11 prohibited and declared unlawful, and no public utility providing heat, light, water, or power  
12 produced, transmitted, distributed, delivered, or furnished shall terminate the service or deprive  
13 any building, whatsoever, of service if the reason therefor is nonpayment of the service without  
14 first notifying the user of the service, or the owner or owners of the building as recorded with the  
15 utility of the impending service termination by written notice at least ten (10) days prior to the  
16 effective date of the proposed termination of service. The effective date of the actual termination  
17 shall not be on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or on any state-celebrated holiday.

18           (b) Any existing rules and regulations dealing with the termination of commercial utility

1 service and establishing reasonable methods of debt collection promulgated by the commission  
2 pursuant to this chapter, including, but not limited to, any rules and regulations dealing with  
3 deposit and deferred payment arrangements, winter moratorium and medical emergency  
4 protections, and customer dispute resolution procedures, shall be applicable to any public utility  
5 which distributes electricity.

6 (c) The commission shall promulgate such further rules and regulations as are necessary  
7 to protect commercial consumers following the introduction of competition in the electric  
8 industry and which are consistent with this chapter.

9 (d) The commission shall administer such rules and regulations as may be necessary to  
10 implement the purpose of this section and to provide for restoration of electric and/or gas service  
11 to commercial customers.

12 (e) A customer terminated from service under the provisions of this section shall be  
13 eligible for restoration of service in accordance with the applicable provisions of the public  
14 utilities commission rules and regulations governing the termination of commercial electric, gas,  
15 and water service.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND  
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- 1           This act would establish requirements governing the termination and restoration of
- 2 commercial electric, gas and water utility services.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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