

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4671**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

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**SYNOPSIS**

Requires public and local utilities to provide notice to residential customers of available relief measures during coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the General Assembly on March 1, 2021.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)

1 AN ACT requiring public and local utilities to provide notice of  
 2 certain relief measures during the coronavirus disease 2019  
 3 pandemic.

4  
 5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
 6 of New Jersey:

7  
 8 1. a. A public utility and local utility shall notify, in a form  
 9 and manner determined by the public utility and local utility,  
 10 respectively, each of its residential customers of information and  
 11 resources available to residential customers concerning public  
 12 utility and local utility service and bill payment assistance during  
 13 the coronavirus 2019 pandemic.

14 b. The notification shall include, but not be limited to,  
 15 information concerning any:

16 (1) moratorium in effect on the disconnection, discontinuance,  
 17 or termination of public utility or local utility service;

18 (2) deferred bill payment agreement program;

19 (3) bill payment assistance program; <sup>1</sup>**and**<sup>1</sup>

20 (4) arrearage forgiveness program <sup>1</sup>; and

21 (5) moratorium in effect on rate increases or on the imposition  
 22 of late fees, interest, or liens for late payments<sup>1</sup>.

23 c. A public utility and local utility shall provide the notification  
 24 required, pursuant to subsection a. of this section, <sup>1</sup>**on a quarterly**  
 25 **basis** <sup>2</sup>in the same manner and frequency that the customer  
 26 receives a regular bill,<sup>1</sup> **monthly, in a form and manner determined**  
 27 **by the Board of Public Utilities or Department of Community**  
 28 **Affairs, as applicable,**<sup>2</sup> until 18 months after the date of the  
 29 termination of Executive Order No. 103 of 2020, which authorized  
 30 the State of Emergency in response to the coronavirus 2019  
 31 pandemic. <sup>2</sup>For a municipality served by a public utility or local  
 32 utility in which the primary language of 10 percent or more of the  
 33 population is a language other than English, the public utility or  
 34 local utility shall provide notification in that other language or  
 35 languages for use by customers in that municipality.<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>A public  
 36 utility and local utility shall publish the required information  
 37 prominently on its website.<sup>1</sup>

38 d. <sup>1</sup>**The Department of Community Affairs, in consultation**  
 39 **with the Board of Public Utilities, shall compile information on**  
 40 **State and federal policies and programs concerning public utility**  
 41 **and local utility service and bill payment assistance, which shall be**  
 42 **made available to each public utility and local utility, and shall be**  
 43 **included in the notice required by subsection a. of this section.]**  
 44 Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a local utility to

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SEG committee amendments adopted January 14, 2021.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted March 1, 2021.

1 establish or administer a bill payment assistance program not  
2 authorized by law.<sup>1</sup>

3 e. As used in this section:

4 “Coronavirus 2019” means the coronavirus disease 2019, as  
5 announced by the World Health Organization on February 11, 2020,  
6 and first identified in Wuhan, China.

7 "Local utility" means any sewerage authority created pursuant to  
8 the "sewerage authorities law," P.L.1946, c.138 (C.40:14A-1 et  
9 seq.); any utilities authority created pursuant to the "municipal and  
10 county utilities authorities law," P.L.1957, c.183 (C.40:14B-1 et  
11 seq.); or any municipal, county, or regional utility, authority,  
12 commission, special district, or other corporate entity, not regulated  
13 by the Board of Public Utilities, that provides electricity, gas, heat,  
14 power, sewer, or water service.

15 “Public utility” means a public utility, defined pursuant to  
16 R.S.48:2-13, providing electric, gas, sewer, or water service to  
17 residential customers.

18

19 2. This act shall take effect immediately.