

ASSEMBLY, No. 4677

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman McKnight and Assemblyman Moen

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain utilities to allow residential customers to satisfy outstanding balances over time.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/15/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning service resumption and payment of outstanding
2 amounts after discontinuance of certain utility service, and
3 supplementing Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 48
4 of the Revised Statutes.

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

8
9 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule,
10 regulation, or order to the contrary, a municipal public utility that
11 resumes service to a residential customer, after having discontinued
12 service to that customer for utility service bill nonpayment, shall
13 allow the customer to make monthly payments to the utility, over a
14 period of at least 12 months, to reduce any outstanding balance the
15 customer owed to the utility for utility service provided prior to the
16 utility service discontinuance. The amount due to the utility for the
17 first six months of monthly outstanding payments shall be less than
18 the amount due to the utility for the balance of monthly outstanding
19 payments. Time periods under this section shall begin no earlier
20 than the date of service resumption.

21 b. Nothing in subsection a. of this section shall otherwise effect
22 a residential customer's liability to a municipal public utility for
23 any other service rendered to the customer by the municipal public
24 utility.

25 c. As used in this section:

26 "municipal public utility" or "utility" means a municipal public
27 utility, as defined in N.J.S.40A:1-1, that provides electric, gas,
28 sewer, or water service.

29
30 2. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule,
31 regulation, or order to the contrary, a local public authority that
32 resumes service to a residential customer, after having discontinued
33 service to that customer for utility service bill nonpayment, shall
34 allow the customer to make monthly payments to the utility, over a
35 period of at least 12 months, to reduce any outstanding balance the
36 customer owed to the authority for utility service provided prior to
37 the utility service discontinuance. The amount due to the authority
38 for the first six months of monthly outstanding payments shall be
39 less than the amount due to the authority for the balance of monthly
40 outstanding payments. Time periods under this section shall begin
41 no earlier than the date of service resumption.

42 b. Nothing in subsection a. of this section shall otherwise effect
43 a residential customer's liability to a local public authority for any
44 other service rendered by the authority.

45 c. As used in this section:

46 "local public authority" or "authority" means an authority, as
47 defined in N.J.S.40A:5A-3, that provides electric, gas, sewer, or
48 water service.

27 This bill would require utilities and authorities that provide
28 electric, gas, sewer, or water service to residential customers, and
29 which have discontinued service to a residential customer for
30 nonpayment, to allow a customer to pay the outstanding balance
31 owed prior to the discontinuance of service over a period of at least
32 12 months. The bill specifies that the payment of outstanding
33 amounts would be structured so that the amount due during the first
34 six months of monthly outstanding payments would be less than the
35 amount due to for the balance of monthly outstanding payments.
36 The bill would not impact a customer's liability for other service
37 rendered by the utility or authority.