

1 H.39
2 Introduced by Representatives Andrews of Rutland City, Courcelle of Rutland
3 City, Fagan of Rutland City and Howard of Rutland City
4 Referred to Committee on
5 Date:
6 Subject: Municipal government; uniform water and sewer disconnect; fees
7 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to increase the fees for the
8 reconnection of municipal water and sewer services disconnected because of
9 nonpayment.

10 An act relating to increasing the fees for the reconnection of municipal
11 water and sewer services disconnected because of nonpayment

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 5144 is amended to read:

14 § 5144. UNIFORM NOTICE FORM

15 The notice form required under section 5143 of this chapter, and defined in
16 section 5142 of this chapter shall be clearly printed on a pink colored sheet of
17 paper, and shall be according to the following form:

18 Date _____

19 \$ _____

20 AMOUNT IN ARREARS

1 Dear Customer:

2 According to our records, your (water) (sewer) service account is still
3 unpaid. Please make full payment of the account or contact our office to make
4 satisfactory arrangements before If this is not done, we will no longer
5 be able to extend credit and will have to discontinue your service, on that day
6 or any one of the following four business days. (Under the law, "Business
7 days" means Monday through Thursday, excluding legal holidays, when the
8 offices are not open to the public). An unpaid bill is a lien on your real
9 property, and may lead to tax sale proceedings.

10 SPECIAL CHARGES - Section 5151 of Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated,
11 provides that we charge a fee for coming to your location to collect the amount
12 overdue. Also, the same statute provides that we shall charge a reconnection
13 fee for restoration of service if your service has been disconnected for
14 nonpayment. These fees are as follows:

15 Collection Trips - \$ 25.00, regardless of number

16 Reconnection - Normal Hours - ~~\$ 25.00~~ \$50.00

17 Overtime - ~~\$ 37.50~~ \$100.00

18 Interest according to 32 V.S.A. § 5136(a)

19 If payment has already been sent, we recommend that you contact our office
20 to make certain that payment is recorded on your account by the indicated date

1 as such payment may have become delayed or lost in the mail. Payment in the
2 mail does not constitute payment until received by us.

3 THIS IS A FINAL REQUEST FROM:

4 (Name of Credit Supervisor)

5 (Name of Municipality)

6 (Address of Municipality)

7 (Town)

8 Vermont (Zip Code)

9 (Telephone Number)

10 OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION - If you have a question
11 concerning this bill or if you want to seek an agreement with us to pay the
12 balance due in partial payments over a period of time, you should contact this
13 office as soon as possible after receipt of this notice. In the event an agreement
14 is entered into, failure to abide by the terms of agreement can lead to
15 disconnection without further notice. If disconnection would result in an
16 immediate and serious health hazard to you or to a resident within your
17 household, disconnection will be postponed upon presentation of a duly
18 licensed physician's certificate.

19 APPEALS - If you cannot reach agreement as to payment of this bill with
20 the credit supervisor whose name appears above, you may appeal to:

21 (Name of Chairman of the Local Legislative Body)

1 (Name of Town, City or Village)

2 (Address of Office)

3 (Mailing Address)

4 or by calling:

5 (Telephone Number)

6 An appeal cannot be taken unless you first attempt to settle with the credit
7 supervisor. You may appeal only as to the proper amount of your bill or the
8 correctness of application of the rules and regulations. You may not appeal as
9 to the level or design of the rates themselves. No charge shall be made for the
10 appeal. However, undisputed portions of the charges giving rise to this notice
11 must be paid before the disconnection date given above.

12 Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. § 5151(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) Fees charged shall not exceed the following schedule:

14 Collection Trips - \$25.00 maximum, regardless of number

15 Reconnection:

16 Normal Hours - ~~\$25.00~~ \$50.00

17 Overtime - ~~\$37.50~~ \$100.00