

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on General and Housing to which was referred House Bill
3 No. 21 entitled “An act relating to landlord notice of utility disconnections”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. UTILITY DISCONNECTION; LANDLORD NOTIFICATION;
8 PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION; RULEMAKING

9 (a) For the purpose of promoting safety, the protection of property, and
10 providing assistance to tenants, the Public Utility Commission shall revise its
11 rules concerning utility service disconnection to:

12 (1) require that a utility provide notice to the property owner of
13 residential or nonresidential rental property if utility service to the property has
14 been disconnected, even if the tenant is the ratepayer; and

15 (2) allow a utility to disconnect utility service remotely.

16 (b) As used in this section, “utility service” means gas, electric, water, and
17 wastewater service subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission.

18 (c) The rules adopted pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall:

19 (1) establish the form, content, time, and manner of the notification
20 required by subdivision (a)(1) of this section;

1 (2) include a process whereby a property owner can request that the
2 notification is provided to a property manager or other appropriate third party;
3 and

4 (3) ensure that the notification does not include personal or confidential
5 information pertaining to the tenant or the tenant’s account, except that the
6 utility may disclose information necessary to enable the property owner or
7 other applicable third party to reconnect utility service to the property.

8 (d) On or before January 15, 2024, the Public Utility Commission shall
9 submit to the House Committees on General and Housing and on Environment
10 and Energy and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing
11 and General Affairs and on Finance a proposal in the form of draft legislation
12 that incorporates, as the Commission deems appropriate, the rules adopted by
13 the Commission pursuant to this section and that applies to utility
14 disconnections not subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, including
15 water and sewer service provided by a water or sewer system owned by a
16 municipality, fire district, or private company subject to the uniform water and
17 sewer disconnection requirements in 24 V.S.A. chapter 129.

18 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on passage.

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2 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE