

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure to which was referred
3 House Bill No. 753 entitled “An act relating to utility service disconnections
4 and ratepayer protections” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE

8 This act may be cited as the “Vermont Energy Equity Law.”

9 Sec. 2. UTILITY DISCONNECTIONS; REPORT

10 For the purpose of providing policymakers with data necessary for
11 monitoring and responding to trends in the residential electric and gas sectors,
12 particularly with respect to safeguarding the welfare of ratepayers, the
13 Commissioner of Public Service shall conduct an annual assessment of
14 involuntary residential service disconnections. The assessment shall take into
15 consideration the monthly disconnection reports prepared by electric and gas
16 utilities pursuant to Public Utility Commission Rule 3.308(B); relevant
17 consumer assistance records maintained by the Consumer Affairs and Public
18 Information Division; and any other data deemed appropriate by the
19 Commissioner. The Commissioner shall report findings and recommendations
20 related to the assessment to the House Committee on Energy and Digital
21 Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Finance on or before January 15,

1 2027, and annually thereafter. The report required by this section may be
2 included in the Department’s Annual Energy Report to the General Assembly
3 or may be submitted in a standalone report, in the Commissioner’s discretion.

4 Sec. 3. UTILITY SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS; RULEMAKING

5 On or before January 1, 2028, or upon the initiation of any rulemaking
6 pertaining to Public Utility Commission Rule 3.300 (concerning residential
7 utility service disconnections), whichever occurs first, the Public Utility
8 Commission shall adopt rules that:

9 (1) curtail service disconnections during periods of extreme heat, as
10 defined by the Commission, which may include a lower temperature threshold
11 for households comprised of persons who are 62 years of age or older;

12 (2) clarify that, in Rule 3.301(G), a licensed physician assistant or a
13 nurse practitioner may issue a physician’s certificate; and

14 (3) require due consideration of medical judgment regarding the
15 duration of a health hazard indicated in a physician’s certificate when
16 establishing the disconnection protection period for a health hazard.

17 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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1 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE

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3.308 Filing Requirements

- (A) Within thirty days after the effective date of this rule, all companies subject to its provisions shall submit to the Commission for its review a copy of the disconnection notice form described in Section 3.303.
- (B) All gas, electric and telephone utilities subject to this rule shall file monthly with the Commission, on a form provided by the Commission, a statement reporting the following information regarding residential service for the previous month: the number of bills forwarded to ratepayers, the number of disconnection notices sent, the number of actual disconnections, the number of reconnections made within 15 days of disconnection, the number of repayment plans entered into, the number of repayment plans that were broken, and the dollar amount of delinquencies for which disconnections were made.
- (C) Companies that fail to file information required in Section 3.308(B) within six months of the month being reported shall be precluded from disconnecting any residential customers.
- (D) Within 120 days of the effective date of revisions to this rule, each utility shall file tariff amendments to ensure that they are consistent with the provisions of this rule.

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