

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 the 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, Disconnection of Residential
17 Gas, Electric, and Water Service (CVR 30-000-3300), Rule 3.308(B); relevant
18 consumer assistance records maintained by the Consumer Affairs and Public
19 Information Division; and any other data deemed appropriate by the
20 Commissioner. The Commissioner shall report findings and recommendations
21 related to the assessment to the House Committee on Energy and Digital

1 Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Finance on or before January 15,
2 2027, and annually thereafter. The report required by this section may be
3 included in the Department’s Annual Energy Report to the General Assembly
4 or may be submitted in a standalone report, in the Commissioner’s discretion.

5 Sec. 3. UTILITY SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS; RULEMAKING

6 On or before January 1, 2028, or upon the initiation of any rulemaking
7 pertaining to Public Utility Commission, Disconnection of Residential Gas,
8 Electric, and Water Service (CVR 30-000-3300), Rule 3.300, whichever occurs
9 first, the Public Utility Commission shall adopt rules that:

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

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

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

19 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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2 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE