

1 H.753

2 An act relating to utility service disconnections and ratepayer protections

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

4 Sec. 1. SHORT TITLE

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

6 Sec. 2. UTILITY DISCONNECTIONS; REPORT

7 For the purpose of providing policymakers with the data necessary for
8 monitoring and responding to trends in the residential electric and gas sectors,
9 particularly with respect to safeguarding the welfare of ratepayers, the
10 Commissioner of Public Service shall conduct an annual assessment of
11 involuntary residential service disconnections. The assessment shall take into
12 consideration the monthly disconnection reports prepared by electric and gas
13 utilities pursuant to Public Utility Commission, Disconnection of Residential
14 Gas, Electric, and Water Service (CVR 30-000-3300), Rule 3.308(B); relevant
15 consumer assistance records maintained by the Consumer Affairs and Public
16 Information Division; and any other data deemed appropriate by the
17 Commissioner. The Commissioner shall report findings and recommendations
18 related to the assessment to the House Committee on Energy and Digital
19 Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Finance on or before January 15,
20 2027, and annually thereafter. The report required by this section may be

1 included in the Department's Annual Energy Report to the General Assembly
2 or may be submitted in a standalone report, in the Commissioner's discretion.

3 Sec. 3. UTILITY SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS; RULEMAKING

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

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