

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Finance to which was referred House Bill No. 753  
3 entitled “An act relating to utility service disconnections and ratepayer  
4 protections” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
5 recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as  
6 follows:

7 First: By striking out Sec. 2, utility disconnections; report, in its entirety  
8 and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

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. In addition, the Commissioner shall consult with the  
21 Commissioner of Health, the Chief Health Care Advocate, and any other

1 interested stakeholders to determine whether Public Utility Commission Rule  
2 3.300, generally, should include added protections for vulnerable populations,  
3 including those who have no or limited access to health care in the event of a  
4 health hazard, and households comprising young children or persons who are  
5 pregnant. Finally, the Commissioner shall determine whether increased  
6 outreach or disclosures are necessary to ensure ratepayers are sufficiently  
7 notified of the ratepayer protections applicable to utility disconnections. The  
8 Commissioner shall report findings and recommendations related to the  
9 assessment to the House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure and  
10 the Senate Committee on Finance on or before January 15, 2027, and annually  
11 thereafter. The report required by this section may be included in the  
12 Department’s annual energy report to the General Assembly or may be  
13 submitted in a standalone report, in the Commissioner’s discretion.

14 Second: By striking out Sec. 3, utility service disconnections; rulemaking,  
15 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 3. UTILITY SERVICE DISCONNECTIONS; RULEMAKING

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

1           (1) curtail electric utility service disconnections during periods of  
2           extreme heat, as defined by the Commission, which may include a lower  
3           temperature threshold for households comprising young children, as defined by  
4           the Commission, or persons who are pregnant or are 62 years of age or older;  
5           eight years of age or younger, or pregnant; and

6           (2) clarify that, in Rule 3.301(G), a licensed physician assistant or a  
7           nurse practitioner may issue a physician’s certificate.

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

11           (b) As part of the rulemaking required under subsection (a) of this section,  
12           the Commission shall consider whether medical judgment should be  
13           incorporated into determining the duration of a disconnection protection period  
14           for a health hazard.

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18           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

19           \_\_\_\_\_

20           Senator \_\_\_\_\_

21           FOR THE COMMITTEE