

40A:5A-31 & 40A:5A-32, 48:2-29.56b**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

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LAWS OF: 2025 **CHAPTER:** 145**NJSA:** 40A:5A-31 & 40A:5A-32, 48:2-29.56b Establishes "Summer Termination Program" for certain utility customers.**BILL NO:** A5563 (Substituted for S4361 (1R))**SPONSOR(S)** Pintor Marin, Eliana and others**DATE INTRODUCED:** 4/10/2025**COMMITTEE:** **ASSEMBLY:** Aging & Human Services
Appropriations**SENATE:** --**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes**DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY:** 06/30/2025**SENATE:** 06/30/2025**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 9/24/2025**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:****FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (A5563 Sa (1R) enacted)**ADVANCE LAW** Yes**PAMPHLET LAW** Yes**A5563****INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes**REPRINT(S):** Yes Senate 6/30/25 1R**TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:** No**COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY:** Yes Human Services
Appropriations**SENATE:** No(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** Yes**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No**S4361 (1R)****INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes**REPRINT(S):** Yes SBA 6/26/25 1R

TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:	No	
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	No
	SENATE:	Yes Economic Growth Budget & Appropriations

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, ***may possibly*** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	Yes
VETO MESSAGE:	No
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes
LEGISLATOR STATEMENT:	Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes

Eric Conklin - For South Jersey Times, 'Law shields some residents from summertime utility shutoffs The new program prevents utility companies from disconnecting service for certain customers during the summer months.', *South Jersey Times* (online), 26 Sep 2025 002 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1A3593B1F37F0B60>>

CL/MMcB

§§1,2
C.40A:5A-31
and 40A:5A-32
§3
C.48:2-29.56b
§4
Note to §3

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 145, *approved September 24, 2025*
Assembly, No. 5563 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning certain utility service protections and
2 supplementing Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 48
3 of the Revised Statutes.
4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7
8 1. a. For the purposes of this section:
9 “Board” means the ¹New Jersey¹ Board of Public Utilities.
10 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.
11 “Local authority” means an authority, as defined in section 3 of
12 P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-3), or a water district established
13 pursuant to R.S.40:62-96, that provides electric, sewer, or water
14 service.
15 “Municipal utility” means a municipal public utility, as defined
16 in N.J.S.40A:1-1, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.
17 “Program” means the Summer Termination Program established
18 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.
19 “Residential customer” means a residential customer of record of
20 a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative, as
21 well as any residential tenant of a residence where the owner or any
22 agent or other representative of the owner of the residence is a non-
23 residential customer of record of a local authority, municipal utility,
24 or rural electric cooperative.
25 “Rural electric cooperative” means a rural electric cooperative,
26 as defined in section 2 of P.L.2017, c.297 (C.48:24-2).
27 ¹“Utility emergency” means any condition constituting a
28 potential danger to life, health, or property that requires a local
29 authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative to
30 discontinue, interrupt, or maintain the discontinuation or
31 interruption of electric, sewer, or water service or that results in an
32 unscheduled discontinuance or interruption of electric, sewer, or
33 water service.¹

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
¹Senate floor amendments adopted June 30, 2025.

1 b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L. ,
2 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
3 Department of Community Affairs shall establish a Summer
4 Termination Program, which shall prohibit a local authority,
5 municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative from discontinuing
6 electric, sewer, or water service ¹during the period of June 15
7 through August 31¹ to a residential customer deemed eligible for
8 the program by the department ¹if the three-day wet bulb globe
9 temperature forecast within a local authority's, municipal utility's,
10 or rural electric cooperative's jurisdiction is expected to equal or
11 exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of the 72-
12 hour period. ¹pursuant to subsection d. of this section. Each year, a
13 residential customer who is eligible for and seeks utility shutoff
14 protections under the program, and whose electric, sewer, or water
15 service has been terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15, shall
16 have their service restored on June 15, and no reconnection fee shall
17 be charged. Prior to restoring service to a residential customer
18 pursuant to this subsection, a local authority, municipal utility, or
19 rural electric cooperative may verify that the residential customer
20 continues to reside in or occupy the place of residence for which
21 service was terminated for nonpayment.¹

22 c. ¹During the period of June 15 through August 31, each local
23 authority, municipal utility, and rural electric cooperative shall
24 discuss a deferred payment arrangement with its residential
25 customers who participate in the program and are in arrears.

26 d.¹ The department shall deem a residential customer eligible
27 for the program if the residential customer:

28 (1) ¹receives assistance under programs specified in the meets
29 one or more of the categorical¹ eligibility criteria for the ¹board's
30 department's¹ Winter Termination Program, ¹established by the
31 board¹ pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the ¹board
32 department¹ and published in the New Jersey Administrative Code;
33 or

34 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer's local authority,
35 municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative bill due to certain
36 circumstances ¹beyond the residential customer's control¹,
37 including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness, medically-
38 related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family member,
39 and any other circumstances, as determined by the department, that
40 might cause financial hardship.

41 ¹d. e.¹ The department shall establish a process ¹that
42 allows ¹, in a form and manner to be determined by the department,
43 through which¹ a residential customer ¹to may¹ self-certify an
44 inability to pay the residential customer's local authority, municipal
45 utility, or rural electric cooperative bill ¹, pursuant to paragraph 2
46 of subsection c. of this section. ¹due to certain circumstances

1 beyond the residential customer's control, including, but not limited
2 to: unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, recent death
3 of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as
4 determined by the department, that might cause financial hardship.

5 f. This section shall not apply to shutoffs, due to a utility
6 emergency, of electric, sewer, or water service to a residential
7 customer who is eligible for utility shutoff protections under the
8 program.¹

9
10 2. The Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with
11 the Board of Public Utilities, shall promulgate rules and regulations,
12 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
13 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of section 1 of
14 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

15
16 3. a. For the purposes of this section:

17 "Board" means the ¹New Jersey¹ Board of Public Utilities.

18 "Program" means the Summer Termination Program established
19 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

20 "Public utility" means a public utility, as that term is defined in
21 R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

22 "Residential customer" means a residential customer of record of
23 a public utility, as well as any residential tenant of a residence
24 where the owner or any agent or other representative of the owner
25 of the residence is a non-residential customer of record of a public
26 utility.

27 ¹"Utility emergency" means any condition constituting a
28 potential danger to life, health, or property that requires a public
29 utility to discontinue, interrupt, or maintain the discontinuation or
30 interruption of electric, sewer, or water service or that results in an
31 unscheduled discontinuance or interruption of electric, sewer, or
32 water service.¹

33 b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L. ,
34 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Board
35 of Public Utilities shall establish a Summer Termination Program,
36 which shall prohibit a public utility from discontinuing electric,
37 sewer, or water service ¹during the period of June 15 through
38 August 31¹ to a residential customer deemed eligible for the
39 program by the board ¹if the three-day wet bulb globe temperature
40 forecast within a public utility's jurisdiction is expected to equal or
41 exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of the 72-
42 hour period. pursuant to subsection d. of this section. Each year, a
43 residential customer who is eligible for and seeks utility shutoff
44 protections under the program, and whose electric, sewer, or water
45 service has been terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15, shall
46 have their service restored on June 15, and no reconnection fee shall
47 be charged. Prior to restoring service pursuant to this subsection, a

1 public utility may verify that the residential customer continues to
2 reside in or occupy the place of residence for which service was
3 terminated for nonpayment.¹

4 c. 'During the period of June 15 through August 31, each
5 public utility shall discuss a deferred payment arrangement with its
6 residential customers who participate in the program and are in
7 arrears.

8 d.¹ The board shall deem a residential customer eligible for the
9 program if the residential customer:

10 (1) ~~'[receives assistance under programs specified in the]~~ meets
11 one or more of the categorical¹ eligibility criteria for the board's
12 Winter Termination Program, established by the board pursuant to
13 rules and regulations adopted by the board and published in the
14 New Jersey Administrative Code; or

15 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer's public utility bill
16 due to certain circumstances 'beyond the residential customer's
17 control¹, including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness,
18 medically-related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family
19 member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the board,
20 that might cause financial hardship.

21 ~~'[d.] e.~~¹ The board shall establish a process ~~'[that allows]~~ , in
22 a form and manner to be determined by the board, through which¹ a
23 residential customer ~~'[to]~~ may¹ self-certify an inability to pay the
24 residential customer's public utility bill ~~'[~~, pursuant to paragraph 2
25 of subsection c. of this section.~~']~~ due to certain circumstances
26 beyond the residential customer's control, including, but not limited
27 to: unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, the recent
28 death of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances,
29 as determined by the board, that might cause financial hardship.

30 f. This section shall not apply to shutoffs, due to a utility
31 emergency, of electric, sewer, or water service to a residential
32 customer who is eligible for utility shutoff protections under the
33 program.¹

34
35 4. The Board of Public Utilities shall promulgate rules and
36 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
37 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purpose of
38 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
39 as this bill).

40
41 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

42
43
44
45
46 Establishes "Summer Termination Program" for certain utility
47 customers.

CHAPTER 145

AN ACT concerning certain utility service protections and supplementing Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.40A:5A-31 Summer Termination Program, Department of Community Affairs, definitions.

1. a. For the purposes of this section:

“Board” means the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

“Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

“Local authority” means an authority, as defined in section 3 of P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-3), or a water district established pursuant to R.S.40:62-96, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

“Municipal utility” means a municipal public utility, as defined in N.J.S.40A:1-1, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

“Program” means the Summer Termination Program established pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

“Residential customer” means a residential customer of record of a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative, as well as any residential tenant of a residence where the owner or any agent or other representative of the owner of the residence is a non-residential customer of record of a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative.

“Rural electric cooperative” means a rural electric cooperative, as defined in section 2 of P.L.2017, c.297 (C.48:24-2).

“Utility emergency” means any condition constituting a potential danger to life, health, or property that requires a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative to discontinue, interrupt, or maintain the discontinuation or interruption of electric, sewer, or water service or that results in an unscheduled discontinuance or interruption of electric, sewer, or water service.

b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L.2025, c.145 (C.40A:5A-31 et al.), the Department of Community Affairs shall establish a Summer Termination Program, which shall prohibit a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative from discontinuing electric, sewer, or water service during the period of June 15 through August 31 to a residential customer deemed eligible for the program by the department pursuant to subsection d. of this section. Each year, a residential customer who is eligible for and seeks utility shutoff protections under the program, and whose electric, sewer, or water service has been terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15, shall have their service restored on June 15, and no reconnection fee shall be charged. Prior to restoring service to a residential customer pursuant to this subsection, a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative may verify that the residential customer continues to reside in or occupy the place of residence for which service was terminated for nonpayment.

c. During the period of June 15 through August 31, each local authority, municipal utility, and rural electric cooperative shall discuss a deferred payment arrangement with its residential customers who participate in the program and are in arrears.

d. The department shall deem a residential customer eligible for the program if the residential customer:

(1) meets one or more of the categorical eligibility criteria for the department’s Winter Termination Program, pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the department and published in the New Jersey Administrative Code; or

(2) is unable to pay the residential customer's local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative bill due to certain circumstances beyond the residential customer's control, including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness, medically related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the department, that might cause financial hardship.

e. The department shall establish a process, in a form and manner to be determined by the department, through which a residential customer may self-certify an inability to pay the residential customer's local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative bill due to certain circumstances beyond the residential customer's control, including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, recent death of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the department, that might cause financial hardship.

f. This section shall not apply to shutoffs, due to a utility emergency, of electric, sewer, or water service to a residential customer who is eligible for utility shutoff protections under the program.

C.40A:5A-32 Rules, regulations.

2. The Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with the Board of Public Utilities, shall promulgate rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of section 1 of P.L.2025, c.145 (C.40A:5A-31).

C.48:2-29.56b Summer Termination Program, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, definitions.

3. a. For the purposes of this section:

"Board" means the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

"Program" means the Summer Termination Program established pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

"Public utility" means a public utility, as that term is defined in R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

"Residential customer" means a residential customer of record of a public utility, as well as any residential tenant of a residence where the owner or any agent or other representative of the owner of the residence is a non-residential customer of record of a public utility.

"Utility emergency" means any condition constituting a potential danger to life, health, or property that requires a public utility to discontinue, interrupt, or maintain the discontinuation or interruption of electric, sewer, or water service or that results in an unscheduled discontinuance or interruption of electric, sewer, or water service.

b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L.2025, c.145 (C.40A:5A-31 et al.), the Board of Public Utilities shall establish a Summer Termination Program, which shall prohibit a public utility from discontinuing electric, sewer, or water service during the period of June 15 through August 31 to a residential customer deemed eligible for the program by the board pursuant to subsection d. of this section. Each year, a residential customer who is eligible for and seeks utility shutoff protections under the program, and whose electric, sewer, or water service has been terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15, shall have their service restored on June 15, and no reconnection fee shall be charged. Prior to restoring service pursuant to this subsection, a public utility may verify that the residential customer continues to reside in or occupy the place of residence for which service was terminated for nonpayment.

c. During the period of June 15 through August 31, each public utility shall discuss a deferred payment arrangement with its residential customers who participate in the program and are in arrears.

d. The board shall deem a residential customer eligible for the program if the residential customer:

(1) meets one or more of the categorical eligibility criteria for the board's Winter Termination Program, established by the board pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board and published in the New Jersey Administrative Code; or

(2) is unable to pay the residential customer's public utility bill due to certain circumstances beyond the residential customer's control, including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness, medically related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the board, that might cause financial hardship.

e. The board shall establish a process, in a form and manner to be determined by the board, through which a residential customer may self-certify an inability to pay the residential customer's public utility bill due to certain circumstances beyond the residential customer's control, including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the board, that might cause financial hardship.

f. This section shall not apply to shutoffs, due to a utility emergency, of electric, sewer, or water service to a residential customer who is eligible for utility shutoff protections under the program.

4. The Board of Public Utilities shall promulgate rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purpose of section 3 of P.L.2025, c.145 (C.48:2-29.56b).

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved September 24, 2025.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5563

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 10, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Senator RAJ MUKHERJI

District 32 (Hudson)

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

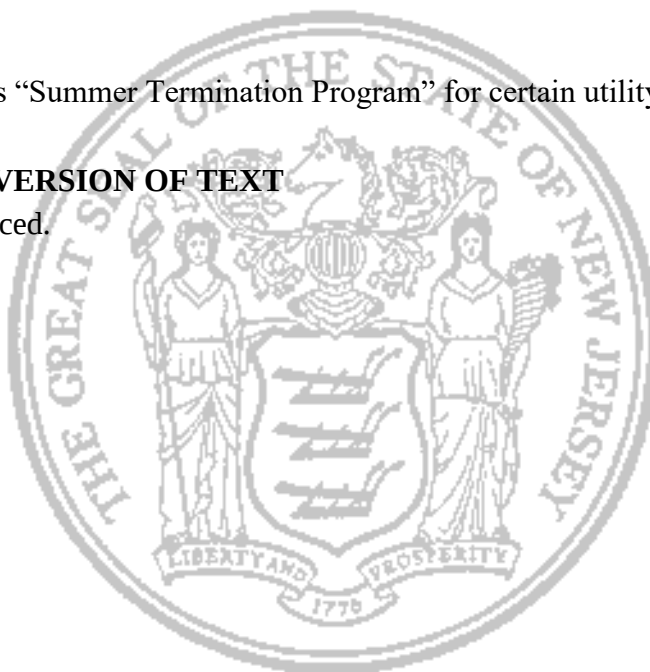
Senators Timberlake, Greenstein, McKnight and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Summer Termination Program” for certain utility customers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning certain utility service protections and
2 supplementing Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 48
3 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. For the purposes of this section:

9 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities.

10 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

11 “Local authority” means an authority, as defined in section 3 of
12 P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-3), or a water district established
13 pursuant to R.S.40:62-96, that provides electric, sewer, or water
14 service.

15 “Municipal utility” means a municipal public utility, as defined
16 in N.J.S.40A:1-1, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

17 “Program” means the Summer Termination Program established
18 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

19 “Residential customer” means a residential customer of record of
20 a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative, as
21 well as any residential tenant of a residence where the owner or any
22 agent or other representative of the owner of the residence is a non-
23 residential customer of record of a local authority, municipal utility,
24 or rural electric cooperative.

25 “Rural electric cooperative” means a rural electric cooperative,
26 as defined in section 2 of P.L.2017, c.297 (C.48:24-2).

27 b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L. ,
28 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
29 Department of Community Affairs shall establish a Summer
30 Termination Program, which shall prohibit a local authority,
31 municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative from discontinuing
32 electric, sewer, or water service to a residential customer deemed
33 eligible for the program by the department if the three-day wet bulb
34 globe temperature forecast within a local authority’s, municipal
35 utility’s, or rural electric cooperative’s jurisdiction is expected to
36 equal or exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of
37 the 72-hour period.

38 c. The department shall deem a residential customer eligible
39 for the program if the residential customer:

40 (1) receives assistance under programs specified in the
41 eligibility criteria for the board’s Winter Termination Program,
42 established by the board pursuant to rules and regulations adopted
43 by the board and published in the New Jersey Administrative Code;
44 or

45 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer’s local authority,
46 municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative bill due to certain
47 circumstances, including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness,
48 medically-related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family

1 member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the
2 department, that might cause financial hardship.

3 d. The department shall establish a process that allows a
4 residential customer to self-certify an inability to pay the residential
5 customer's local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric
6 cooperative bill, pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection c. of this
7 section.

8
9 2. The Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with
10 the Board of Public Utilities, shall promulgate rules and regulations,
11 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
12 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of section 1 of
13 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

14
15 3. a. For the purposes of this section:
16 "Board" means the Board of Public Utilities.
17 "Program" means the Summer Termination Program established
18 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

19 "Public utility" means a public utility, as that term is defined in
20 R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

21 "Residential customer" means a residential customer of record of
22 a public utility, as well as any residential tenant of a residence
23 where the owner or any agent or other representative of the owner
24 of the residence is a non-residential customer of record of a public
25 utility.

26 b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L. ,
27 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Board
28 of Public Utilities shall establish a Summer Termination Program,
29 which shall prohibit a public utility from discontinuing electric,
30 sewer, or water service to a residential customer deemed eligible for
31 the program by the board if the three-day wet bulb globe
32 temperature forecast within a public utility's jurisdiction is
33 expected to equal or exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or
34 more out of the 72-hour period.

35 c. The board shall deem a residential customer eligible for the
36 program if the residential customer:

37 (1) receives assistance under programs specified in the
38 eligibility criteria for the board's Winter Termination Program,
39 established by the board pursuant to rules and regulations adopted
40 by the board and published in the New Jersey Administrative Code;
41 or

42 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer's public utility bill
43 due to certain circumstances, including, but not limited to:
44 unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, the recent death
45 of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as
46 determined by the board, that might cause financial hardship.

47 d. The board shall establish a process that allows a residential
48 customer to self-certify an inability to pay the residential

1 customer's public utility bill, pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection
2 c. of this section.

3

4 4. The Board of Public Utilities shall promulgate rules and
5 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
6 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purpose of
7 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
8 as this bill).

9

10 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

11

12

13

STATEMENT

14

15 This bill directs the Department of Community Affairs
16 (department) and the Board of Public Utilities (board) each to
17 establish a "Summer Termination Program" (program). The bill
18 prohibits a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric
19 cooperative, or public utility from discontinuing electric, sewer, or
20 water service to certain residential customers if the three-day wet
21 bulb globe temperature forecast within a local authority's,
22 municipal utility's, rural electric cooperative's, or public utility's
23 jurisdiction is expected to equal or exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for
24 24 hours or more out of the 72-hour period. Under the bill, a
25 residential customer is eligible for the program if the residential
26 customer: (1) receives assistance under certain programs specified
27 in the eligibility criteria for the "Winter Termination Program"; or
28 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer's local authority,
29 municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill due
30 to certain circumstances, including, but not limited to,
31 unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, the recent death
32 of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as
33 determined by the department or the board, as applicable, that might
34 cause financial hardship.

35 Finally, the bill requires the department and the board each to
36 establish a process for residential customers to self-certify their
37 inability to pay a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric
38 cooperative, or public utility bill.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5563

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 10, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Senator RAJ MUKHERJI

District 32 (Hudson)

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Timberlake, Greenstein, McKnight and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Summer Termination Program” for certain utility customers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on June 30, 2025.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning certain utility service protections and
2 supplementing Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 48
3 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. For the purposes of this section:

9 “Board” means the ¹New Jersey¹ Board of Public Utilities.

10 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

11 “Local authority” means an authority, as defined in section 3 of
12 P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-3), or a water district established
13 pursuant to R.S.40:62-96, that provides electric, sewer, or water
14 service.

15 “Municipal utility” means a municipal public utility, as defined
16 in N.J.S.40A:1-1, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

17 “Program” means the Summer Termination Program established
18 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

19 “Residential customer” means a residential customer of record of
20 a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative, as
21 well as any residential tenant of a residence where the owner or any
22 agent or other representative of the owner of the residence is a non-
23 residential customer of record of a local authority, municipal utility,
24 or rural electric cooperative.

25 “Rural electric cooperative” means a rural electric cooperative,
26 as defined in section 2 of P.L.2017, c.297 (C.48:24-2).

27 ¹“Utility emergency” means any condition constituting a
28 potential danger to life, health, or property that requires a local
29 authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative to
30 discontinue, interrupt, or maintain the discontinuation or
31 interruption of electric, sewer, or water service or that results in an
32 unscheduled discontinuance or interruption of electric, sewer, or
33 water service.¹

34 b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L. ,
35 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
36 Department of Community Affairs shall establish a Summer
37 Termination Program, which shall prohibit a local authority,
38 municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative from discontinuing
39 electric, sewer, or water service ¹during the period of June 15
40 through August 31¹ to a residential customer deemed eligible for
41 the program by the department ¹**if the three-day wet bulb globe**
42 **temperature forecast within a local authority’s, municipal utility’s,**
43 **or rural electric cooperative’s jurisdiction is expected to equal or**
44 **exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of the 72-**

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted June 30, 2025.

1 hour period.】 pursuant to subsection d. of this section. Each year, a
2 residential customer who is eligible for and seeks utility shutoff
3 protections under the program, and whose electric, sewer, or water
4 service has been terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15, shall
5 have their service restored on June 15, and no reconnection fee shall
6 be charged. Prior to restoring service to a residential customer
7 pursuant to this subsection, a local authority, municipal utility, or
8 rural electric cooperative may verify that the residential customer
9 continues to reside in or occupy the place of residence for which
10 service was terminated for nonpayment.¹

11 c. ¹During the period of June 15 through August 31, each local
12 authority, municipal utility, and rural electric cooperative shall
13 discuss a deferred payment arrangement with its residential
14 customers who participate in the program and are in arrears.

15 d.¹ The department shall deem a residential customer eligible
16 for the program if the residential customer:

17 (1) ¹【receives assistance under programs specified in the】 meets
18 one or more of the categorical¹ eligibility criteria for the ¹【board's】
19 department's¹ Winter Termination Program, ¹【established by the
20 board】¹ pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the ¹【board】
21 department¹ and published in the New Jersey Administrative Code;
22 or

23 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer's local authority,
24 municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative bill due to certain
25 circumstances ¹beyond the residential customer's control¹,
26 including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness, medically-
27 related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family member,
28 and any other circumstances, as determined by the department, that
29 might cause financial hardship.

30 ¹【d.】 e.¹ The department shall establish a process ¹【that
31 allows】, in a form and manner to be determined by the department,
32 through which¹ a residential customer ¹【to】 may¹ self-certify an
33 inability to pay the residential customer's local authority, municipal
34 utility, or rural electric cooperative bill ¹【, pursuant to paragraph 2
35 of subsection c. of this section.】 due to certain circumstances
36 beyond the residential customer's control, including, but not limited
37 to: unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, recent death
38 of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as
39 determined by the department, that might cause financial hardship.

40 f. This section shall not apply to shutoffs, due to a utility
41 emergency, of electric, sewer, or water service to a residential
42 customer who is eligible for utility shutoff protections under the
43 program.¹

44
45 2. The Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with
46 the Board of Public Utilities, shall promulgate rules and regulations,

1 pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410
2 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of section 1 of
3 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4
5 3. a. For the purposes of this section:

6 “Board” means the ¹New Jersey¹ Board of Public Utilities.

7 “Program” means the Summer Termination Program established
8 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

9 “Public utility” means a public utility, as that term is defined in
10 R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

11 “Residential customer” means a residential customer of record of
12 a public utility, as well as any residential tenant of a residence
13 where the owner or any agent or other representative of the owner
14 of the residence is a non-residential customer of record of a public
15 utility.

16 ¹“Utility emergency” means any condition constituting a
17 potential danger to life, health, or property that requires a public
18 utility to discontinue, interrupt, or maintain the discontinuation or
19 interruption of electric, sewer, or water service or that results in an
20 unscheduled discontinuance or interruption of electric, sewer, or
21 water service.¹

22 b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L. ,
23 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Board
24 of Public Utilities shall establish a Summer Termination Program,
25 which shall prohibit a public utility from discontinuing electric,
26 sewer, or water service ¹during the period of June 15 through
27 August 31¹ to a residential customer deemed eligible for the
28 program by the board ¹if the three-day wet bulb globe temperature
29 forecast within a public utility’s jurisdiction is expected to equal or
30 exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of the 72-
31 hour period. pursuant to subsection d. of this section. Each year, a
32 residential customer who is eligible for and seeks utility shutoff
33 protections under the program, and whose electric, sewer, or water
34 service has been terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15, shall
35 have their service restored on June 15, and no reconnection fee shall
36 be charged. Prior to restoring service pursuant to this subsection, a
37 public utility may verify that the residential customer continues to
38 reside in or occupy the place of residence for which service was
39 terminated for nonpayment.¹

40 c. ¹During the period of June 15 through August 31, each
41 public utility shall discuss a deferred payment arrangement with its
42 residential customers who participate in the program and are in
43 arrears.

44 d.¹ The board shall deem a residential customer eligible for the
45 program if the residential customer:

46 (1) ¹receives assistance under programs specified in the meets
47 one or more of the categorical¹ eligibility criteria for the board’s

1 Winter Termination Program, established by the board pursuant to
2 rules and regulations adopted by the board and published in the
3 New Jersey Administrative Code; or

4 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer's public utility bill
5 due to certain circumstances 'beyond the residential customer's
6 control', including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness,
7 medically-related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family
8 member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the board,
9 that might cause financial hardship.

10 '[d.] e.' The board shall establish a process '[that allows] , in
11 a form and manner to be determined by the board, through which' a
12 residential customer '[to] may' self-certify an inability to pay the
13 residential customer's public utility bill '[, pursuant to paragraph 2
14 of subsection c. of this section.] due to certain circumstances
15 beyond the residential customer's control, including, but not limited
16 to: unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, the recent
17 death of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances,
18 as determined by the board, that might cause financial hardship.

19 f. This section shall not apply to shutoffs, due to a utility
20 emergency, of electric, sewer, or water service to a residential
21 customer who is eligible for utility shutoff protections under the
22 program.'
23

24 4. The Board of Public Utilities shall promulgate rules and
25 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
26 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purpose of
27 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
28 as this bill).
29

30 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY AGING AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5563

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 8, 2025

The Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5563.

This bill directs the Department of Community Affairs (department) and the Board of Public Utilities (board) each to establish a “Summer Termination Program” (program). The bill prohibits a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility from discontinuing electric, sewer, or water service to certain residential customers if the three-day wet bulb globe temperature forecast within a local authority’s, municipal utility’s, rural electric cooperative’s, or public utility’s jurisdiction is expected to equal or exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of the 72-hour period. Under the bill, a residential customer is eligible for the program if the residential customer: (1) receives assistance under certain programs specified in the eligibility criteria for the “Winter Termination Program”; or (2) is unable to pay the residential customer’s local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill due to certain circumstances, including, but not limited to, unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the department or the board, as applicable, that might cause financial hardship.

Finally, the bill requires the department and the board each to establish a process for residential customers to self-certify their inability to pay a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5563

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 15, 2025

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5563.

As reported, this bill directs the Department of Community Affairs (department) and the Board of Public Utilities (board) each to establish a “Summer Termination Program” (program). The bill prohibits a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility from discontinuing electric, sewer, or water service to certain residential customers if the three-day wet bulb globe temperature forecast within a local authority’s, municipal utility’s, rural electric cooperative’s, or public utility’s jurisdiction is expected to equal or exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of the 72-hour period. Under the bill, a residential customer is eligible for the program if the residential customer: (1) receives assistance under certain programs specified in the eligibility criteria for the “Winter Termination Program”; or (2) is unable to pay the residential customer’s local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill due to certain circumstances, including, but not limited to, unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the department or the board, as applicable, that might cause financial hardship.

Finally, the bill requires the department and the board each to establish a process for residential customers to self-certify their inability to pay a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will result in an annual State cost increase of up to \$3.5 million for the administrative costs of the Department of Community Affairs and the Board of Public Utilities, which will be required to dedicate staff time and resources to establish and administer the Summer Termination Program. This estimate represents a maximum State cost increase based on annual State spending for a similar program, the Winter Termination Program, between FY 2022 and FY 2025.

The OLS anticipates that the enactment of this bill may result in reduced local annual revenue. By eliminating the possibility of utility service disconnections during the summer months, local and municipal

utilities may experience a reduction in revenue that would otherwise be generated from reconnection fees and additional penalties. Additionally, local and municipal expenditures may decrease annually as utility companies will not have to dispatch resources to disconnect and reconnect services for customers.

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5563

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator MUKHERJI)

ADOPTED: JUNE 30, 2025

These floor amendments:

(1) define “utility emergency” under the bill as any condition constituting a potential danger to life, health, or property that requires a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility to discontinue, interrupt, or maintain the discontinuation or interruption of electric, sewer, or water service or that results in an unscheduled discontinuance or interruption in electric, sewer, or water service;

(2) replace the program’s temperature-based protections with date-based protections, prohibiting utility shutoffs during the period of June 15 to August 31 rather than prohibiting utility shutoffs when the three-day wet bulb globe temperature forecast within a local authority’s, municipal utility’s, rural electric cooperative’s, or public utility’s jurisdiction is expected to equal or exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of the 72-hour period;

(3) require utility services to be restored on June 15 of each year, with no reconnection fee charged, for any residential customer who is eligible for and seeks protection under the program and whose utility services were terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15;

(4) provide that local authorities, municipal utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and public utilities may verify, prior to restoring service on June 15, that the residential customer continues to reside in or occupy the place of residence for which service was terminated for nonpayment;

(5) require local authorities, municipal utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and public utilities to discuss a deferred payment arrangement with any residential customer participating in the program who is in arrears;

(6) clarify that program eligibility, in part, is determined by whether a residential customer meets one or more of the categorical eligibility criteria for the board’s “Winter Termination Program” or the department’s “Winter Termination Program,” as applicable, rather than whether a residential customer receives assistance under programs specified in the board’s “Winter Termination Program” eligibility criteria;

(7) clarify that program eligibility, in part, is determined by a residential customer’s inability to pay their utility bill due to certain circumstances that are beyond the residential customer’s control;

(8) provide an exception to the program's shutoff protections to allow for the discontinuation or interruption of utility service, due to a utility emergency, to residential customers who are eligible for the program; and

(9) make technical corrections.

SENATE, No. 4361

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator RAJ MUKHERJI

District 32 (Hudson)

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Timberlake

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Summer Termination Program” for certain utility customers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/19/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning certain utility service protections and
2 supplementing Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 48
3 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. For the purposes of this section:

9 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities.

10 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

11 “Local authority” means an authority, as defined in section 3 of
12 P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-3), or a water district established
13 pursuant to R.S.40:62-96, that provides electric, sewer, or water
14 service.

15 “Municipal utility” means a municipal public utility, as defined
16 in N.J.S.40A:1-1, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

17 “Program” means the Summer Termination Program established
18 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

19 “Residential customer” means a residential customer of record of
20 a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative, as
21 well as any residential tenant of a residence where the owner or any
22 agent or other representative of the owner of the residence is a non-
23 residential customer of record of a local authority, municipal utility,
24 or rural electric cooperative.

25 “Rural electric cooperative” means a rural electric cooperative,
26 as defined in section 2 of P.L.2017, c.297 (C.48:24-2).

27 b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L. ,
28 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
29 Department of Community Affairs shall establish a Summer
30 Termination Program, which shall prohibit a local authority,
31 municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative from discontinuing
32 electric, sewer, or water service to a residential customer deemed
33 eligible for the program by the department if the three-day wet bulb
34 globe temperature forecast within a local authority’s, municipal
35 utility’s, or rural electric cooperative’s jurisdiction is expected to
36 equal or exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of
37 the 72-hour period.

38 c. The department shall deem a residential customer eligible
39 for the program if the residential customer:

40 (1) receives assistance under programs specified in the eligibility
41 criteria for the board’s Winter Termination Program, established by
42 the board pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board
43 and published in the New Jersey Administrative Code; or

44 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer’s local authority,
45 municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative bill due to certain
46 circumstances, including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness,
47 medically-related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family

1 member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the
2 department, that might cause financial hardship.

3 d. The department shall establish a process that allows a
4 residential customer to self-certify an inability to pay the residential
5 customer's local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric
6 cooperative bill, pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection c. of this
7 section.

8
9 2. The Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with
10 the Board of Public Utilities, shall promulgate rules and regulations,
11 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
12 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of section 1 of
13 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

14
15 3. a. For the purposes of this section:
16 "Board" means the Board of Public Utilities.
17 "Program" means the Summer Termination Program established
18 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

19 "Public utility" means a public utility, as that term is defined in
20 R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

21 "Residential customer" means a residential customer of record of
22 a public utility, as well as any residential tenant of a residence
23 where the owner or any agent or other representative of the owner
24 of the residence is a non-residential customer of record of a public
25 utility.

26 b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L. ,
27 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Board
28 of Public Utilities shall establish a Summer Termination Program,
29 which shall prohibit a public utility from discontinuing electric,
30 sewer, or water service to a residential customer deemed eligible for
31 the program by the board if the three-day wet bulb globe
32 temperature forecast within a public utility's jurisdiction is
33 expected to equal or exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or
34 more out of the 72-hour period.

35 c. The board shall deem a residential customer eligible for the
36 program if the residential customer:

37 (1) receives assistance under programs specified in the eligibility
38 criteria for the board's Winter Termination Program, established by
39 the board pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board
40 and published in the New Jersey Administrative Code; or

41 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer's public utility bill
42 due to certain circumstances, including, but not limited to:
43 unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, the recent death
44 of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as
45 determined by the board, that might cause financial hardship.

46 d. The board shall establish a process that allows a residential
47 customer to self-certify an inability to pay the residential

1 customer's public utility bill, pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection
2 c. of this section.

3

4 4. The Board of Public Utilities shall promulgate rules and
5 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
6 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purpose of
7 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
8 as this bill).

9

10 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

11

12

13

STATEMENT

14

15 This bill directs the Department of Community Affairs
16 (department) and the Board of Public Utilities (board) each to
17 establish a "Summer Termination Program" (program). The bill
18 prohibits a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric
19 cooperative, or public utility from discontinuing electric, sewer, or
20 water service to certain residential customers if the three-day wet
21 bulb globe temperature forecast within a local authority's,
22 municipal utility's, rural electric cooperative's, or public utility's
23 jurisdiction is expected to equal or exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for
24 24 hours or more out of the 72-hour period. Under the bill, a
25 residential customer is eligible for the program if the residential
26 customer: (1) receives assistance under certain programs specified
27 in the eligibility criteria for the "Winter Termination Program"; or
28 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer's local authority,
29 municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill due
30 to certain circumstances, including, but not limited to,
31 unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, the recent death
32 of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as
33 determined by the department or the board, as applicable, that might
34 cause financial hardship.

35 Finally, the bill requires the department and the board each to
36 establish a process for residential customers to self-certify their
37 inability to pay a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric
38 cooperative, or public utility bill.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 4361

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator RAJ MUKHERJI

District 32 (Hudson)

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Timberlake, Greenstein, McKnight and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Summer Termination Program” for certain utility customers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 26, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning certain utility service protections and
2 supplementing Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 48
3 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. For the purposes of this section:

9 “Board” means the ¹New Jersey¹ Board of Public Utilities.

10 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

11 “Local authority” means an authority, as defined in section 3 of
12 P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-3), or a water district established
13 pursuant to R.S.40:62-96, that provides electric, sewer, or water
14 service.

15 “Municipal utility” means a municipal public utility, as defined
16 in N.J.S.40A:1-1, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

17 “Program” means the Summer Termination Program established
18 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

19 “Residential customer” means a residential customer of record of
20 a local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative, as
21 well as any residential tenant of a residence where the owner or any
22 agent or other representative of the owner of the residence is a non-
23 residential customer of record of a local authority, municipal utility,
24 or rural electric cooperative.

25 “Rural electric cooperative” means a rural electric cooperative,
26 as defined in section 2 of P.L.2017, c.297 (C.48:24-2).

27 ¹“Utility emergency” means any condition constituting a
28 potential danger to life, health, or property that requires a local
29 authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative to
30 discontinue, interrupt, or maintain the discontinuation or
31 interruption of electric, sewer, or water service or that results in an
32 unscheduled discontinuance or interruption of electric, sewer, or
33 water service.¹

34 b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L. ,
35 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
36 Department of Community Affairs shall establish a Summer
37 Termination Program, which shall prohibit a local authority,
38 municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative from discontinuing
39 electric, sewer, or water service ¹during the period of June 15
40 through August 31¹ to a residential customer deemed eligible for
41 the program by the department ¹[if the three-day wet bulb globe
42 temperature forecast within a local authority’s, municipal utility’s,
43 or rural electric cooperative’s jurisdiction is expected to equal or
44 exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of the 72-

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 26, 2025.

1 hour period.】 pursuant to subsection d. of this section. Each year, a
2 residential customer who is eligible for and seeks utility shutoff
3 protections under the program, and whose electric, sewer, or water
4 service has been terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15, shall
5 have their service restored on June 15, and no reconnection fee shall
6 be charged. Prior to restoring service to a residential customer
7 pursuant to this subsection, a local authority, municipal utility, or
8 rural electric cooperative may verify that the residential customer
9 continues to reside in or occupy the place of residence for which
10 service was terminated for nonpayment.¹

11 c. ¹During the period of June 15 through August 31, each local
12 authority, municipal utility, and rural electric cooperative shall
13 discuss a deferred payment arrangement with its residential
14 customers who participate in the program and are in arrears.

15 d.¹ The department shall deem a residential customer eligible
16 for the program if the residential customer:

17 (1) ¹【receives assistance under programs specified in the】 meets
18 one or more of the categorical¹ eligibility criteria for the ¹【board's】
19 department's¹ Winter Termination Program, ¹【established by the
20 ¹board¹ pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the ¹【board】
21 department¹ and published in the New Jersey Administrative Code;
22 or

23 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer's local authority,
24 municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative bill due to certain
25 circumstances ¹beyond the residential customer's control¹ ,
26 including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness, medically-
27 related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family member,
28 and any other circumstances, as determined by the department, that
29 might cause financial hardship.

30 ¹【d.】 e.¹ The department shall establish a process ¹【that
31 allows】 , in a form and manner to be determined by the department,
32 through which¹ a residential customer ¹【to】 may¹ self-certify an
33 inability to pay the residential customer's local authority, municipal
34 utility, or rural electric cooperative bill ¹【, pursuant to paragraph 2
35 of subsection c. of this section.】 due to certain circumstances
36 beyond the residential customer's control, including, but not limited
37 to: unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, recent death
38 of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as
39 determined by the department, that might cause financial hardship.

40 f. This section shall not apply to shutoffs, due to a utility
41 emergency, of electric, sewer, or water service to a residential
42 customer who is eligible for utility shutoff protections under the
43 program.¹

44

45 2. The Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with
46 the Board of Public Utilities, shall promulgate rules and regulations,

1 pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410
 2 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of section 1 of
 3 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4
 5 3. a. For the purposes of this section:

6 “Board” means the ¹New Jersey¹ Board of Public Utilities.

7 “Program” means the Summer Termination Program established
 8 pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

9 “Public utility” means a public utility, as that term is defined in
 10 R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric, sewer, or water service.

11 “Residential customer” means a residential customer of record of
 12 a public utility, as well as any residential tenant of a residence
 13 where the owner or any agent or other representative of the owner
 14 of the residence is a non-residential customer of record of a public
 15 utility.

16 ¹“Utility emergency” means any condition constituting a
 17 potential danger to life, health, or property that requires a public
 18 utility to discontinue, interrupt, or maintain the discontinuation or
 19 interruption of electric, sewer, or water service or that results in an
 20 unscheduled discontinuance or interruption of electric, sewer, or
 21 water service.¹

22 b. Within 120 days of the effective date of P.L. ,
 23 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Board
 24 of Public Utilities shall establish a Summer Termination Program,
 25 which shall prohibit a public utility from discontinuing electric,
 26 sewer, or water service ¹during the period of June 15 through
 27 August 31¹ to a residential customer deemed eligible for the
 28 program by the board ¹if the three-day wet bulb globe temperature
 29 forecast within a public utility’s jurisdiction is expected to equal or
 30 exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of the 72-
 31 hour period. pursuant to subsection d. of this section. Each year, a
 32 residential customer who is eligible for and seeks utility shutoff
 33 protections under the program, and whose electric, sewer, or water
 34 service has been terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15, shall
 35 have their service restored on June 15, and no reconnection fee shall
 36 be charged. Prior to restoring service pursuant to this subsection, a
 37 public utility may verify that the residential customer continues to
 38 reside in or occupy the place of residence for which service was
 39 terminated for nonpayment.¹

40 c. ¹During the period of June 15 through August 31, each
 41 public utility shall discuss a deferred payment arrangement with its
 42 residential customers who participate in the program and are in
 43 arrears.

44 d.¹ The board shall deem a residential customer eligible for the
 45 program if the residential customer:

46 (1) ¹receives assistance under programs specified in the meets
 47 one or more of the categorical¹ eligibility criteria for the board’s

1 Winter Termination Program, established by the board pursuant to
2 rules and regulations adopted by the board and published in the
3 New Jersey Administrative Code; or

4 (2) is unable to pay the residential customer's public utility bill
5 due to certain circumstances 'beyond the residential customer's
6 control', including, but not limited to: unemployment, illness,
7 medically-related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family
8 member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the board,
9 that might cause financial hardship.

10 '[d.] e.' The board shall establish a process '[that allows] , in
11 a form and manner to be determined by the board, through which' a
12 residential customer '[to] may' self-certify an inability to pay the
13 residential customer's public utility bill '[, pursuant to paragraph 2
14 of subsection c. of this section.] due to certain circumstances
15 beyond the residential customer's control, including, but not limited
16 to: unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, the recent
17 death of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances,
18 as determined by the board, that might cause financial hardship.

19 f. This section shall not apply to shutoffs, due to a utility
20 emergency, of electric, sewer, or water service to a residential
21 customer who is eligible for utility shutoff protections under the
22 program.'
23

24 4. The Board of Public Utilities shall promulgate rules and
25 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
26 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purpose of
27 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
28 as this bill).
29

30 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4361

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2025

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 4361.

As reported, this bill directs the Department of Community Affairs (department) and the Board of Public Utilities (board) to each establish a “Summer Termination Program” (program). The bill prohibits a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility from discontinuing electric, sewer, or water service to certain residential customers if the three-day wet bulb globe temperature forecast within a local authority’s, municipal utility’s, rural electric cooperative’s, or public utility’s jurisdiction is expected to equal or exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of the 72-hour period.

Under the bill, a residential customer is eligible for the program if the residential customer: (1) receives assistance under certain programs specified in the eligibility criteria for the “Winter Termination Program”; or (2) is unable to pay the residential customer’s local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill due to certain circumstances, including, but not limited to, unemployment, illness, medically-related expenses, the recent death of an immediate family member, and any other circumstances, as determined by the department or the board, as applicable, that might cause financial hardship.

Finally, the bill requires the department and the board each to establish a process for residential customers to self-certify their inability to pay a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4361

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2025

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 4361.

As amended, this bill directs the Department of Community Affairs (department) and the Board of Public Utilities (board) to each establish a “Summer Termination Program” (program). The bill prohibits a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility from discontinuing electric, sewer, or water service (utility service) to certain residential customers during the period of June 15 through August 31, unless the discontinuation of service is due to a utility emergency.

In addition, each year, the bill requires a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility to restore service on June 15 to any residential customer who is eligible for and seeks protection under the program and whose utility services were terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15. The bill prohibits a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility from charging a reconnection fee for restoring service under the bill but permits these entities to verify, prior to restoring service, that a residential customer still resides in or occupies the place of residence for which service was terminated for nonpayment. The bill also requires a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility to discuss a deferred payment arrangement with any residential customer participating in the program who is in arrears.

Under the bill, a residential customer is eligible for the program if the customer: (1) meets one or more of the categorical eligibility criteria for the board’s “Winter Termination Program” or the department’s “Winter Termination Program,” as applicable; or (2) is unable to pay the customer’s local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill due to certain circumstances outlined in the bill that are beyond the customer’s control.

The bill also requires the department and the board to each establish a process for residential customers to self-certify their inability to pay a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill due to certain circumstances beyond the customer’s control.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) define “utility emergency” under the bill as any condition constituting a potential danger to life, health, or property that requires a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility to discontinue, interrupt, or maintain the discontinuation or interruption of electric, sewer, or water service or that results in an unscheduled discontinuance or interruption in electric, sewer, or water service;

(2) replace the program’s temperature-based protections with date-based protections, prohibiting utility shutoffs during the period of June 15 to August 31 rather than prohibiting utility shutoffs when the three-day wet bulb globe temperature forecast within a local authority’s, municipal utility’s, rural electric cooperative’s, or public utility’s jurisdiction is expected to equal or exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for 24 hours or more out of the 72-hour period;

(3) require utility services to be restored on June 15 of each year, with no reconnection fee charged, for any residential customer who is eligible for and seeks protection under the program and whose utility services were terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15;

(4) provide that local authorities, municipal utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and public utilities may verify, prior to restoring service on June 15, that the residential customer continues to reside in or occupy the place of residence for which service was terminated for nonpayment;

(5) require local authorities, municipal utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and public utilities to discuss a deferred payment arrangement with any residential customer participating in the program who is in arrears;

(6) clarify that program eligibility, in part, is determined by whether a residential customer meets one or more of the categorical eligibility criteria for the board’s “Winter Termination Program” or the department’s “Winter Termination Program,” as applicable, rather than whether a residential customer receives assistance under programs specified in the board’s “Winter Termination Program” eligibility criteria;

(7) clarify that program eligibility, in part, is determined by a residential customer’s inability to pay their utility bill due to certain circumstances that are beyond the residential customer’s control;

(8) provide an exception to the program’s shutoff protections to allow for the discontinuation or interruption of utility service, due to a utility emergency, to residential customers who are eligible for the program; and

(9) make technical corrections.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 4361

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 2, 2025

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes "Summer Termination Program" for certain utility customers.

Type of Impact: Increase in annual State expenditures; potential decrease in local revenue; potential decrease in local expenditures.

Agencies Affected: Department of Community Affairs; Board of Public Utilities; local utility companies.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Expenditure	Up to \$3.5 million
Potential Local Expenditure Decrease	Indeterminate
Potential Local Revenue Decrease	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will result in an annual State cost increase of up to \$3.5 million for the administrative costs of the Department of Community Affairs and the Board of Public Utilities, which will be required to dedicate staff time and resources to establish and administer the Summer Termination Program. This estimate represents a maximum State cost increase based on annual State spending for a similar program, the Winter Termination Program, between FY 2023 and FY 2025.
- The OLS anticipates that the enactment of this bill may result in reduced local annual revenue. By eliminating the possibility of utility service disconnections during the summer months, local utilities may experience a reduction in revenue that would otherwise be generated from reconnection fees and additional penalties.
- Additionally, local expenditures may decrease annually as utilities will not have to dispatch resources to disconnect and reconnect services for customers from June 15 to August 31 of each year. However, this may be partially offset by increased expenditures due to the required restoration of service on June 15 of each year, with no reconnection fee charged, for any

residential customer who is eligible for and seeks protection under the program and whose utility services were terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill directs the Department of Community Affairs and the Board of Public Utilities to each establish a Summer Termination Program that prohibits a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility from discontinuing electric, sewer, or water service to certain residential customers during the period of June 15 through August 31, unless the discontinuation of service is due to a utility emergency.

In addition, each year, the bill requires a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility to restore service on June 15 to any residential customer who is eligible for and seeks protection under the program and whose utility services were terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15. The bill prohibits a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility from charging a reconnection fee for restoring service under the bill but permits these entities to verify, prior to restoring service, that a residential customer still resides in or occupies the place of residence for which service was terminated for nonpayment. The bill also requires a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility to discuss a deferred payment arrangement with any residential customer participating in the program who is in arrears.

Under the bill, a residential customer is eligible for the program if the customer: (1) meets one or more of the categorical eligibility criteria for the Winter Termination Program; or (2) is unable to pay the customer's local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill due to certain circumstances outlined in the bill that are beyond the customer's control.

The bill also requires the department and the board to each establish a process for residential customers to self-certify their inability to pay a local authority, municipal utility, rural electric cooperative, or public utility bill due to certain circumstances beyond the customer's control.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill will result in an annual State cost increase of up to \$3.5 million for the administrative costs of the department and the board, which will be required to dedicate staff time and resources to establish and administer the Summer Termination Program. This estimate represents a maximum State cost increase based on annual State spending for a similar program, the Winter Termination Program, between FY 2023 and FY 2025.

The OLS anticipates that the enactment of this bill may result in reduced local annual revenue. By eliminating the possibility of utility service disconnections during the summer months, local utilities may experience a reduction in revenue that would otherwise be generated from reconnection fees and additional penalties. Additionally, local expenditures may decrease annually as utility companies will not have to dispatch resources to disconnect and reconnect services for customers from June 15 to August 31 of each year. However, this may be partially

offset by increased expenditures due to the required restoration of service on June 15 of each year, with no reconnection fee charged, for any residential customer who is eligible for and seeks protection under the program and whose utility services were terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15.

Section: Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communications

*Analyst: Michael D. Walker
Associate Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Governor Phil Murphy

Acting Governor Way Signs Legislation Establishing Summer Termination Program for Utility Shutoffs

Posted on - 09/24/2025

Protects Vulnerable Residents from Utility Service Discontinuation During Extreme Heat

TRENTON – Today, Acting Governor Way signed A5563/S4361, directing the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to establish a Summer Termination Program. The program mirrors the existing Winter Termination Program and aims to protect vulnerable residents from utility service discontinuation between June 15 and August 31 each year. This bill signing coincides with New Jersey Climate Week in an effort to support residents impacted by extreme temperatures as a result of the climate crisis.

"Today, we are building on our efforts to ease the regional electricity affordability crisis for New Jersey residents," **said Acting Governor Way**. "This legislation will ensure that, during the hot summer months, residents can keep their air conditioning and water running. The Summer Termination Program is one of the many steps our Administration is taking to bolster public health and ensure hardworking New Jerseyans are not forced to endure dangerous heat indoors as climate change continues to exacerbate temperatures in the summer months."

"The Summer Termination Program provides an important additional tool in our toolbox to help ensure New Jersey residents maintain access to essential utility services that support their well-being and quality of life," **said Christine Guhl-Sadovy, President of the NJBPU**.

"We recognize the financial challenges that people sometimes face as they balance costs for housing, food, and medication, among other needs, with their utility bills," **said DCA Commissioner Jacquelyn A. Suárez**. "By preventing utility shutoffs during the hottest time of the year, the new Summer Termination Program will support public health and safety while giving people time to make deferred payment arrangements or apply for utility assistance. At DCA, we are committed to helping families who are financially struggling get through heat waves without compromising the health of their loved ones and themselves."

Under the new law, electricity, water, and sewer service will not be terminated during the June 15 to August 31 protection period for residential customers who demonstrate that they meet the existing eligibility criteria for the [Winter Termination Program \(https://www.nj.gov/dca/dhcr/offices/wintertermination.shtml\)](https://www.nj.gov/dca/dhcr/offices/wintertermination.shtml), or who otherwise demonstrate an inability to pay their utility bills due to circumstances beyond their control.


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The establishment of the Summer Termination Program builds upon the Murphy Administration's ongoing efforts to aid New Jerseyans impacted by the energy cost crisis caused by mismanagement under regional grid operator PJM. Other notable efforts to combat rising energy costs include:

- Calling for a formal investigation (<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250417a.shtml>) into the energy cost crisis facilitated by PJM
- Announcing \$430 million in direct economic relief (<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250605a.shtml>) for New Jersey ratepayers
- Sending a bipartisan letter (<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250718a.shtml>) to PJM demanding increased transparency and oversight
- Signing legislation (<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250815a.shtml>) to increase public accountability from grid operators
- Expanding clean energy and energy storage capacity (<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250822a.shtml>).

The prime sponsors of A5563/S4361 are Senators Raj Mukherji and Nilsa Cruz-Perez and Assemblymembers Eliana Pintor Marin, Reginald Atkins, Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, and Annette Quijano.

"As electricity costs spiked this summer, it became painfully clear that families already struggling to make ends meet need relief. In extreme temperatures, power shutoffs are not just a financial hardship – they're a threat to health and safety, particularly for children, seniors, people with chronic conditions, and those living in poorly insulated homes," **said Senator Raj Mukherji**. "Electricity for cooling is not a luxury in scorching conditions; it's a lifeline. This law ensures utilities stay on during the hottest months, protecting vulnerable New Jerseyans and saving lives."

"The Summer Termination Program will help ensure safety during times of extreme heat for residents who are unable to pay due to situations outside of their control, just as the Winter Termination Program ensures safety during cold weather," **said Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez**. "This program both recognizes the danger posed by extreme heat, especially for vulnerable populations such as the elderly, and that putting someone's health at risk for being unable to pay a utility bill threatens to further compound the hardships preventing payment in the first place."

"The Summer Termination Program makes sure essential utilities remain on when families need them most," **said Assemblywoman Pintor Marin**. "This policy is a vital safeguard for public health and community stability. It reflects our commitment to protecting working families and strengthening resilience in the face of extreme heat."

"This bill is about leveling the playing field, giving vulnerable residents the same stability and security that every New Jersey family deserves," **said Assemblyman Reginald Atkins**. "No individual with chronic health issues should suffer due to their socio-economic status. I'm proud to see legislation creating a Summer Termination Program signed into law, safeguarding low-income households from the harsh consequences of utility shutoffs during the hottest months of the year."

"The Summer Termination Program is part of a vision for a New Jersey where no one's health or safety is put at risk because of financial hardship in the heat of summer," **said Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson**. "This legislation protects vulnerable New Jerseyans during the hot summer months while laying the groundwork for more resilient and stronger communities as extreme weather becomes more frequent."

"Working families are already stretched thin—this bill is an important way we can help make sure they are able to

keep their lights on and their homes cooled in the summer," **said Assemblywoman Annette Quijano**. "By ensuring uninterrupted utility service in the summer, we're protecting them from costly reconnections and helping keep more money in their pockets where it belongs."

"The mental, physical and emotional toll taken on families experiencing financial hardships is quite extensive," **said Marcus Sibley, Chair of the NJ Progressive Equitable Energy Coalition**. "Couple that with losing access to needed utilities during that same timeframe, and you have a recipe for a mental health crisis that will most likely outlive the financial crisis. NJPEEC applauds our legislature for the establishment of the Summer Termination Program, as it was both the good thing and the right thing for our state to do."

"As heat waves grow longer and more frequent, older adults and those with critical health needs face serious risks. No one should ever have to choose between keeping their home cool and affording other basic necessities. AARP New Jersey applauds Governor Murphy and bill sponsors Assemblymembers Eliana Pintor Marin, Reginald Atkins, Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, and Annette Quijano, along with Senators Raj Mukherji and Nilsa Cruz-Perez, for their leadership in advancing this commonsense law to expand protections against summer utility shutoffs," **said Chris Widelo, AARP NJ State Director**.

"The Summer Termination Program is a critical step to put people before profits and ensure that no household is forced to choose between paying the bills and staying safe. This bill is about protecting New Jersey families from the dangerous and unaffordable consequences of extreme heat, which will only get worse due to climate change," **said Ed Potosnak, Executive Director, New Jersey League of Conservation Voters**. "Solar is the cheapest source of electricity. Until we secure a 100% clean energy future, families will be left paying the price for volatile fossil fuel prices and the impacts of climate change. We thank the Governor and legislature for protecting families today, and we look forward to working for permanent solutions to lower costs, combat climate change, and prevent deadly shut offs during heat waves."

Governor Phil Murphy

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Bill Establishing Utility Summer Termination Program Signed into Law

Pintor Marin, Atkins, Reynolds-Jackson, Quijano bill prohibits utility shutoffs from June 15 to August 31

(TRENTON, NJ) – Assemblywoman [Eliana Pintor Marin](#)’s legislation establishing a Summer Termination Program was signed into law today. Bill [A5563](#) prevents local utilities from discontinuing electric, sewer, and water services to certain customers between June 15 and August 31, traditionally the hottest part of the summer. Assembly members [Reginald Atkins](#), [Verlina Reynolds-Jackson](#) and [Annette Quijano](#) also sponsored the legislation.



Bill A5563 tasks the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to each create a Summer Termination Program. Under the bill, residential utility customers who are eligible for utility shutoff protections under the program and whose electric, sewer, or water service has been terminated for nonpayment prior to June 15 will have their service restored on June 15 – without a reconnection fee.

The bill sponsors offered the following comments on the passage of the legislation:

“The Summer Termination Program makes sure essential utilities remain on when families need them most,” **said Assemblywoman Pintor Marin (D-Essex, Hudson)**. “This policy is a vital safeguard for public health and community stability. It reflects our commitment to protecting working families and strengthening resilience in the face of extreme heat.”

“This bill is about leveling the playing field, giving vulnerable residents the same stability and security that every New Jersey family deserves,” **said Assemblyman Atkins (D-Union)**. “No individual with chronic health issues should suffer due to their socio-economic status. I’m proud to see legislation creating a Summer Termination Program signed into law, safeguarding low-income households from the harsh consequences of utility shutoffs during the hottest months of the year.”

“The Summer Termination Program is part of a vision for a New Jersey where no one’s health or safety is put at risk because of financial hardship in the heat of summer,” **said Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson (D-Hunterdon, Mercer)**. “This legislation protects vulnerable New Jerseyans during the hot summer months while laying the groundwork for more resilient and stronger communities as extreme weather becomes more frequent.”

“Working families are already stretched thin—this bill is an important way we can help make sure they are able to keep their lights on and their homes cooled in the summer,” **said Assemblywoman Quijano (D-Union)**. “By ensuring uninterrupted utility service in the summer, we’re protecting them from costly reconnections and helping keep more money in their pockets where it belongs.”

Legislation Establishing 'Summer Termination Program' Signed into Law

TRENTON – As New Jersey residents faced extreme heat and rising electricity costs this summer, Acting Governor Way signed into law today legislation sponsored by Senator Raj Mukherji and Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez that would establish a Summer Termination Program. The program prohibits a public utility, local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative from discontinuing electric, sewer, or water service to an eligible residential customer during the summer.



Under the law, S-4361, residential customers are eligible for the program if they are unable to pay for their utility or electric bill due to certain circumstances, including, but not limited to, unemployment, illness, or medical expenses. Customers can also be eligible if they previously received assistance under the Board of Public Utilities' Winter Termination Program.

The law would further require the Department and Board of Public Utilities to establish processes that allow a residential customer to self-certify an inability to pay their public utility, local authority, municipal utility, or rural electric cooperative bill.

“As electricity costs spiked this summer, it became painfully clear that families already struggling to make ends meet need relief,” said Senator Mukherji (D-Hudson). “In extreme temperatures, power shutoffs are not just a financial hardship, they threaten health and safety, particularly for children, seniors, people with chronic conditions, and those living in poorly insulated homes. Electricity for cooling is not a luxury in scorching conditions; it’s a lifeline. This law ensures utilities stay on during the hottest months, protecting vulnerable New Jerseyans and saving lives.”

“The Summer Termination Program will help ensure safety during times of extreme heat for residents who are unable to pay due to situations outside of their control, just as the Winter Termination Program ensures safety during cold weather,” said Senator Cruz-Perez (D-Camden/Gloucester). “This program recognizes the danger posed by extreme heat, especially for vulnerable populations such as the elderly, and the fact that putting someone’s health at risk for being unable to pay a utility bill threatens to further compound the hardships preventing payment in the first place.”

The program will be active between the dates of June 15 and August 31. Utility services would be restored on June 15 of each year, with no reconnection fee charged, for eligible residential customers whose services were previously terminated for nonpayment.