

48:2-29.57 to 48:2-29.59
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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LAWS OF: 2022 **CHAPTER:** 107

NJSA: 48:2-29.57 to 48:2-29.59
(Requires BPU to conduct study of effect of coronavirus 2019 pandemic on local and public utility service and to quarterly collect and publish certain local and public utility service and customer information.)

BILL NO: A3329 (Substituted for S994 (2R))

SPONSOR(S) Angela V. McKnight and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 3/7/2022

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Telecommunications and Utilities
 SENATE: Economic Growth

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 6/29/2022

SENATE: 6/29/2022

DATE OF APPROVAL: 9/15/2022

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Second Reprint enacted) Yes

A3329

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: Yes

(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

S994 (2R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes

(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

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

end

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 107, *approved September 15, 2022*
Assembly, No. 3329 (*Second Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning local and public utility service and customer
2 information and supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

9 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities or any successor
10 agency.

11 “Coronavirus 2019” means the coronavirus disease 2019, as
12 announced by the World Health Organization on February 11, 2020,
13 and first identified in Wuhan, China.

14 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

15 "Local utility" means any sewerage authority created pursuant to
16 the "sewerage authorities law," P.L.1946, c.138 (C.40:14A-1 et
17 seq.); any utilities authority created pursuant to the "municipal and
18 county utilities authorities law," P.L.1957, c.183 (C.40:14B-1 et
19 seq.); or any municipal, county, or regional utility, authority,
20 commission, special district, or other local government entity, not
21 regulated by the Board of Public Utilities, that provides electricity,
22 gas, heat, power, sewer, or water service.

23 “Personally identifiable information” means any information that
24 is linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable
25 customer.

26 “Public utility” means a public utility, defined pursuant to
27 R.S.48:2-13, providing electric, gas, sewer, or water service to
28 customers.

29
30 2. a. The Board of Public Utilities, in consultation with the
31 Department of Community Affairs, shall prepare and submit, within
32 30 days after the conclusion of a board proceeding concerning the
33 response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic, to the Governor and,
34 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
35 Legislature, a written report which shall make findings and
36 recommendations concerning the effect the coronavirus 2019
37 pandemic has had on local utility and public utility service to
38 commercial and residential customers in this State. The data

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:

¹Assembly ATU committee amendments adopted March 14, 2022.

²Senate floor amendments adopted June 16, 2022.

1 collected from the board's proceeding concerning the response to
2 the coronavirus 2019 pandemic shall be posted on the board's
3 Internet website and updated ²[monthly] quarterly² until ²[180
4 days after the date of the termination of ¹[public health emergency
5 and] the¹ state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the
6 Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and ¹[extended]
7 continued¹, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders] 24
8 months after the effective date of P.L. _____, c. _____
9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill)². The data shall be
10 formatted in a manner determined by the board and shall include,
11 but not be limited to, the following information organized by
12 month, utility name, type of utility service provided, customer class,
13 municipality, and zip code:

14 (1) the overall impact on local utility and public utility supply,
15 demand, revenues, and expenses;

16 (2) the number of local utility and public utility customers, for
17 each category of utility service and how those numbers compare to
18 the ¹[previous year at the]¹ same ¹[time] ²[month] time² in 2019¹;

19 (3) the number of local utility and public utility service
20 customer disconnection notices sent due to bill non-payment,
21 service disconnections due to bill non-payment, service
22 reconnections of customers disconnected for bill non-payment,
23 average time between service disconnection due to non-payment
24 and service reconnection, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to
25 this paragraph, compare to the ¹[previous year at the]¹ same
26 ¹[time] ²[month] time² in 2019¹;

27 (4) as applicable, the number of liens on real property placed,
28 sold, or enforced due to non-payment, and how those numbers
29 compare to the ¹[previous year at the]¹ same ¹[time] ²[month]
30 time² in 2019¹;

31 (5) the number of customers in arrears by 30, 60, 90, 120, 150,
32 and 180 days at the end of each month, the total dollar amount owed
33 and average amount owed per customer in each of those categories,
34 and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compare to
35 the ¹[previous year at the]¹ same ¹[time] ²[month] time² in 2019¹;

36 (6) the number of customer accounts that became eligible for
37 disconnection due to bill nonpayment but were not disconnected
38 because of any legally mandated or voluntary suspension of
39 disconnections due ¹to¹ the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

40 (7) the number of customers enrolled in deferred payment
41 agreements at the end of each month, the total dollar amount of
42 arrears and average amount of arrears per customer subject to those
43 agreements, the average length of the repayment term under those
44 agreements, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
45 compare to the ¹[previous year at the]¹ same ¹[time] ²[month]
46 time² in 2019¹;

1 (8) the number of customers that entered into, successfully
2 completed, or defaulted from a deferred payment agreement, the
3 total dollar amount of arrears and average amount of arrears per
4 customer subject to those agreements, and how the numbers cited,
5 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the ¹【previous year at the】¹
6 same ¹【time】 ²【month】 time² in 2019¹;

7 (9) available customer assistance programs, including terms of
8 eligibility, available budget for each program, and any
9 enhancements to the programs that are being made to address
10 anticipated increased demand;

11 (10) the number of customers that applied for financial
12 assistance under each applicable utility assistance program, and
13 how that number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the
14 ¹【previous year at the】¹ same ¹【time】 ²【month】 time² in 2019¹;

15 (11) the number of customers receiving assistance under each
16 utility assistance program at the end of each month, and how that
17 number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the
18 ¹【previous year at the】¹ same ¹【time】 ²【month】 time² in 2019¹;

19 (12) the number of customers charged late fees, penalties, and
20 interest, the total dollar amount of late fees, penalties, and interest
21 charged and average amount of late fees, penalties, and interest per
22 customer subject to such charges, and how the numbers cited,
23 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the ¹【previous year at the】¹
24 same ¹【time】 ²【month】 time² in 2019¹;

25 (13) the average and median dollar amount billed to customer
26 accounts and the average and median utility usage per customer
27 account, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
28 compare to the ¹【previous year at the】¹ same ¹【time】 ²【month】
29 time² in 2019¹;

30 (14) the total dollar amounts billed to and collected from
31 customer accounts ¹and¹ how the numbers cited, pursuant to this
32 paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same time, except
33 that such data need not be broken down by municipality and zip
34 code within the service area of a utility;

35 (15) the methods and contents of general communications by
36 local utilities and public utilities to customers concerning their
37 rights and available assistance programs if customers are unable to
38 pay their bills in full, excluding any customer-specific
39 communications;

40 (16) the board's assessment of whether existing customer
41 assistance programs are presently, and in the future, sufficient to
42 meet the financial needs of customers in arrears who are unable to
43 pay those arrears in full, as well as the needs of customers who may
44 be unable to pay future bills;

45 (17) a list of any planned local utility and public utility
46 infrastructure projects that were scheduled to take place during or
47 after the reporting period that were canceled or for which the actual

1 or anticipated start date was delayed due to the financial or other
2 impacts of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

3 (18) local utility and public utility revenue, including sales
4 revenue and operating or net revenue information, and how those
5 numbers compare to the ¹["previous year at the"]¹ same ¹["time"]
6 ²["month"] ²time² in 2019¹; and

7 (19) each local utility's and public utility's schedule of rates and
8 charges. As used in this paragraph, "rates" mean the fixed
9 component, if any, and the volumetric or other variable component,
10 if any, of the cost of service that are applied to a category
11 of customers and "charges" mean amounts that are billed to a
12 customer under specific circumstances that are not included in the
13 provider's base rate including, but not limited to, late fees,
14 connection fees, impact fees for new development, deposits for
15 opening new accounts, and any other fees, surcharges, or penalties.

16 b. ²["A"] ²Each² public utility ²and local utility² shall, within 21
17 days of the effective date of P.L. , c. ¹(C.)¹(pending before
18 the Legislature as this bill), and ²["monthly"] ²quarterly² thereafter
19 until ²["180 days after the date of the termination of ¹["public health
20 emergency and"] ¹the¹ state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020
21 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and
22 ¹["extended"] ¹continued¹, where applicable, by subsequent executive
23 orders] ²24 months after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.)
24 (pending before the Legislature as this bill)², file with the board, in
25 a form and manner determined by the board, the information
26 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

27 c. ²["A local utility shall, within 21 days of the effective date of
28 P.L. , c. ¹(C.)¹(pending before the Legislature as this bill),
29 and monthly thereafter until 180 days after the date of the
30 termination of ¹["public health emergency and"] ¹the¹ state of
31 emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to
32 Executive Order No. 103 and ¹["extended"] ¹continued¹, where
33 applicable, by subsequent executive orders, file with the
34 Department of Community Affairs, in a form and manner
35 determined by the board, the information required pursuant to
36 subsection a. of this section. The department shall provide this
37 information to the board in a timely manner.

38 d.]² The board shall provide on its Internet website the data
39 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, including in a
40 downloadable format the raw data from each update. The data
41 provided on the Internet website pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.)
42 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall not include
43 personally identifiable information of any customer.
44

45 3. a. Not more than ²["180 days after the date of the
46 termination of ¹["public health emergency and"] ¹the¹ state of

1 emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to
2 Executive Order No. 103 and ¹["extended"] continued¹, where
3 applicable, by subsequent executive orders] 30 months after the
4 effective date of P.L. _____, c. _____ (C. _____) (pending before the
5 Legislature as this bill)², the board, in consultation with the
6 department, shall collect and compile in a report, on a quarterly
7 basis, information concerning local utility and public utility service
8 and commercial and residential customer information, which shall
9 include, but not be limited to the following, with all information
10 organized by month, utility name ¹,¹ type of utility service
11 provided, customer class, municipality, and zip code:

12 (1) local utility and public utility supply, demand, revenue, and
13 expense information;

14 (2) the number of local utility and public utility customers, for
15 each category of utility service and how those numbers compare to
16 the previous year at the same time;

17 (3) the number of local utility and public utility service
18 customer disconnection notices sent due to bill non-payment,
19 service disconnections due to bill non-payment, service
20 reconnections disconnected for bill non-payment, and how the
21 numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous
22 year at the same time;

23 (4) as applicable, the number of liens on real property placed,
24 sold, or enforced due to non-payment, and how those numbers
25 compare to the previous year at the same time;

26 (5) the number of customers in arrears by 30, 60, 90, 120, 150,
27 and 180 days at the end of each month, the total dollar amount owed
28 and average amount owed per customer in each of those categories,
29 and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compare to
30 the previous year at the same time;

31 (6) the number of customer accounts that became eligible for
32 disconnection due to bill nonpayment but were not disconnected
33 because of any legally mandated or voluntary suspension of
34 disconnections due ¹to¹ the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

35 (7) the number of customers enrolled in deferred payment
36 agreements at the end of each month, the total dollar amount of
37 arrears and average amount of arrears per customer subject to those
38 agreements, the average length of the repayment term under those
39 agreements, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
40 compare to the previous year at the same time;

41 (8) the number of customers that entered into, successfully
42 completed, or defaulted from a deferred payment agreement, the
43 total dollar amount of arrears and average amount of arrears per
44 customer subject to those agreements, and how the numbers cited,
45 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same
46 time;

1 (9) available customer assistance programs, including terms of
2 eligibility, available budget for each program, and any
3 enhancements to the programs that are being made to address
4 anticipated increased demand;

5 (10) the number of customers that applied for financial
6 assistance under each applicable utility assistance program, and
7 how that number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the
8 previous year at the same time;

9 (11) the number of customers receiving assistance under each
10 utility assistance program at the end of each month, and how that
11 number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the previous
12 year at the same time;

13 (12) the number of customers charged late fees, penalties, and
14 interest, the total dollar amount of late fees, penalties, and interest
15 charged and average amount of late fees, penalties, and interest per
16 customer subject to such charges, and how the numbers cited,
17 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same
18 time;

19 (13) the average and median dollar amount billed to customer
20 accounts and the average and median utility usage per customer
21 account, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
22 compare to the previous year at the same time;

23 (14) the total dollar amounts billed to and collected from
24 customer accounts ¹and¹ how the numbers cited, pursuant to this
25 paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same time, except
26 that such data need not be broken down by municipality and zip
27 code within the service area of a utility;

28 (15) the methods and contents of general communications by
29 local utilities and public utilities to customers concerning their
30 rights and available assistance programs if customers are unable to
31 pay their bills in full, excluding any customer-specific
32 communications;

33 (16) the board's assessment of whether existing customer
34 assistance programs are presently, and in the future, sufficient to
35 meet the financial needs of customers in arrears who are unable to
36 pay those arrears in full, as well as the needs of customers who may
37 be unable to pay future bills;

38 (17) a list of any planned local utility and public utility
39 infrastructure projects that were scheduled to take place during or
40 after the reporting period that were canceled or for which the actual
41 or anticipated start date was delayed due to the financial or other
42 impacts of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

43 (18) local utility and public utility revenue, including sales
44 revenue and operating or net revenue information, and how those
45 numbers compare to the previous year at the same time; and

46 (19) each local utility's and public utility's schedule of rates and
47 charges. As used in this paragraph, "rates" mean the fixed
48 component, if any, and the volumetric or other variable component,

1 if any, of the cost of service that are applied to a category
2 of customers and "charges" mean amounts that are billed to a
3 customer under specific circumstances that are not included in the
4 provider's base rate including, but not limited to, late fees,
5 connection fees, impact fees for new development, deposits for
6 opening new accounts, and any other fees, surcharges, or penalties.

7 b. ²~~[A]~~ Each² public utility ²and local utility² shall file with
8 the board, in a form and manner determined by the board, the
9 information required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

10 c. ²~~[A]~~ local utility shall file with the Department of
11 Community Affairs, in a form and manner determined by the board,
12 the information required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.
13 The department shall provide this information to the board in a
14 timely manner.

15 d.]² The board shall provide on its Internet website the reports
16 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, including in a
17 downloadable format the raw data from each report, simultaneously
18 with the completion of each report. The information provided on the
19 Internet website shall not include personally identifiable
20 information of any customer.

21

22 4. The board, in consultation with the department, may adopt,
23 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
24 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary to effectuate
25 the purposes of this act.

26

27 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

28

29

30

31

32 _____
33 Requires BPU to conduct study of effect of coronavirus 2019
34 pandemic on local and public utility service and to quarterly collect
35 and publish certain local and public utility service and customer
information.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3329

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires BPU to conduct study of effect of coronavirus 2019 pandemic on local and public utility service and to quarterly collect and publish certain local and public utility service and customer information.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning local and public utility service and customer
2 information and supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

9 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities or any successor
10 agency.

11 “Coronavirus 2019” means the coronavirus disease 2019, as
12 announced by the World Health Organization on February 11, 2020,
13 and first identified in Wuhan, China.

14 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

15 “Local utility” means any sewerage authority created pursuant to
16 the “sewerage authorities law,” P.L.1946, c.138 (C.40:14A-1 et
17 seq.); any utilities authority created pursuant to the “municipal and
18 county utilities authorities law,” P.L.1957, c.183 (C.40:14B-1 et
19 seq.); or any municipal, county, or regional utility, authority,
20 commission, special district, or other local government entity, not
21 regulated by the Board of Public Utilities, that provides electricity,
22 gas, heat, power, sewer, or water service.

23 “Personally identifiable information” means any information that
24 is linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable
25 customer.

26 “Public utility” means a public utility, defined pursuant to
27 R.S.48:2-13, providing electric, gas, sewer, or water service to
28 customers.

29
30 2. a. The Board of Public Utilities, in consultation with the
31 Department of Community Affairs, shall prepare and submit, within
32 30 days after the conclusion of a board proceeding concerning the
33 response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic, to the Governor and,
34 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
35 Legislature, a written report which shall make findings and
36 recommendations concerning the effect the coronavirus 2019
37 pandemic has had on local utility and public utility service to
38 commercial and residential customers in this State. The data
39 collected from the board’s proceeding concerning the response to
40 the coronavirus 2019 pandemic shall be posted on the board’s
41 Internet website and updated monthly until 180 days after the date
42 of the termination of public health emergency and state of
43 emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to
44 Executive Order No. 103 and extended, where applicable, by
45 subsequent executive orders. The data shall be formatted in a
46 manner determined by the board and shall include, but not be
47 limited to, the following information organized by month, utility

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1 name, type of utility service provided, customer class, municipality,
2 and zip code:

3 (1) the overall impact on local utility and public utility supply,
4 demand, revenues, and expenses;

5 (2) the number of local utility and public utility customers, for
6 each category of utility service and how those numbers compare to
7 the previous year at the same time;

8 (3) the number of local utility and public utility service
9 customer disconnection notices sent due to bill non-payment,
10 service disconnections due to bill non-payment, service
11 reconnections of customers disconnected for bill non-payment,
12 average time between service disconnection due to non-payment
13 and service reconnection, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to
14 this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same time;

15 (4) as applicable, the number of liens on real property placed,
16 sold, or enforced due to non-payment, and how those numbers
17 compare to the previous year at the same time;

18 (5) the number of customers in arrears by 30, 60, 90, 120, 150,
19 and 180 days at the end of each month, the total dollar amount owed
20 and average amount owed per customer in each of those categories,
21 and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compare to
22 the previous year at the same time;

23 (6) the number of customer accounts that became eligible for
24 disconnection due to bill nonpayment but were not disconnected
25 because of any legally mandated or voluntary suspension of
26 disconnections due the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

27 (7) the number of customers enrolled in deferred payment
28 agreements at the end of each month, the total dollar amount of
29 arrears and average amount of arrears per customer subject to those
30 agreements, the average length of the repayment term under those
31 agreements, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
32 compare to the previous year at the same time;

33 (8) the number of customers that entered into, successfully
34 completed, or defaulted from a deferred payment agreement, the
35 total dollar amount of arrears and average amount of arrears per
36 customer subject to those agreements, and how the numbers cited,
37 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same
38 time;

39 (9) available customer assistance programs, including terms of
40 eligibility, available budget for each program, and any
41 enhancements to the programs that are being made to address
42 anticipated increased demand;

43 (10) the number of customers that applied for financial
44 assistance under each applicable utility assistance program, and
45 how that number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the
46 previous year at the same time;

47 (11) the number of customers receiving assistance under each
48 utility assistance program at the end of each month, and how that

1 number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the previous
2 year at the same time;

3 (12) the number of customers charged late fees, penalties, and
4 interest, the total dollar amount of late fees, penalties, and interest
5 charged and average amount of late fees, penalties, and interest per
6 customer subject to such charges, and how the numbers cited,
7 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same
8 time;

9 (13) the average and median dollar amount billed to customer
10 accounts and the average and median utility usage per customer
11 account, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
12 compare to the previous year at the same time;

13 (14) the total dollar amounts billed to and collected from
14 customer accounts how the numbers cited, pursuant to this
15 paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same time, except
16 that such data need not be broken down by municipality and zip
17 code within the service area of a utility;

18 (15) the methods and contents of general communications by
19 local utilities and public utilities to customers concerning their
20 rights and available assistance programs if customers are unable to
21 pay their bills in full, excluding any customer-specific
22 communications;

23 (16) the board's assessment of whether existing customer
24 assistance programs are presently, and in the future, sufficient to
25 meet the financial needs of customers in arrears who are unable to
26 pay those arrears in full, as well as the needs of customers who may
27 be unable to pay future bills;

28 (17) a list of any planned local utility and public utility
29 infrastructure projects that were scheduled to take place during or
30 after the reporting period that were canceled or for which the actual
31 or anticipated start date was delayed due to the financial or other
32 impacts of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

33 (18) local utility and public utility revenue, including sales
34 revenue and operating or net revenue information, and how those
35 numbers compare to the previous year at the same time; and

36 (19) each local utility's and public utility's schedule of rates and
37 charges. As used in this paragraph, "rates" mean the fixed
38 component, if any, and the volumetric or other variable component,
39 if any, of the cost of service that are applied to a category
40 of customers and "charges" mean amounts that are billed to a
41 customer under specific circumstances that are not included in the
42 provider's base rate including, but not limited to, late fees,
43 connection fees, impact fees for new development, deposits for
44 opening new accounts, and any other fees, surcharges, or penalties.

45 b. A public utility shall, within 21 days of the effective date of
46 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and
47 monthly thereafter until 180 days after the date of the termination of
48 public health emergency and state of emergency declared on March

1 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and
2 extended, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders, file
3 with the board, in a form and manner determined by the board, the
4 information required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

5 c. A local utility shall, within 21 days of the effective date of
6 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and
7 monthly thereafter until 180 days after the date of the termination of
8 public health emergency and state of emergency declared on March
9 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and
10 extended, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders, file
11 with the Department of Community Affairs, in a form and manner
12 determined by the board, the information required pursuant to
13 subsection a. of this section. The department shall provide this
14 information to the board in a timely manner.

15 d. The board shall provide on its Internet website the data
16 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, including in a
17 downloadable format the raw data from each update. The data
18 provided on the Internet website pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.)
19 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall not include
20 personally identifiable information of any customer.

21
22 3. a. Not more than 180 days after the date of the termination
23 of public health emergency and state of emergency declared on
24 March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No.
25 103 and extended, where applicable, by subsequent executive
26 orders, the board, in consultation with the department, shall collect
27 and compile in a report, on a quarterly basis, information
28 concerning local utility and public utility service and commercial
29 and residential customer information, which shall include, but not
30 be limited to the following, with all information organized by
31 month, utility name type of utility service provided, customer class,
32 municipality, and zip code:

33 (1) local utility and public utility supply, demand, revenue, and
34 expense information;

35 (2) the number of local utility and public utility customers, for
36 each category of utility service and how those numbers compare to
37 the previous year at the same time;

38 (3) the number of local utility and public utility service
39 customer disconnection notices sent due to bill non-payment,
40 service disconnections due to bill non-payment, service
41 reconnections disconnected for bill non-payment, and how the
42 numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous
43 year at the same time;

44 (4) as applicable, the number of liens on real property placed,
45 sold, or enforced due to non-payment, and how those numbers
46 compare to the previous year at the same time;

47 (5) the number of customers in arrears by 30, 60, 90, 120, 150,
48 and 180 days at the end of each month, the total dollar amount owed

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1 and average amount owed per customer in each of those categories,
2 and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compare to
3 the previous year at the same time;

4 (6) the number of customer accounts that became eligible for
5 disconnection due to bill nonpayment but were not disconnected
6 because of any legally mandated or voluntary suspension of
7 disconnections due the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

8 (7) the number of customers enrolled in deferred payment
9 agreements at the end of each month, the total dollar amount of
10 arrears and average amount of arrears per customer subject to those
11 agreements, the average length of the repayment term under those
12 agreements, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
13 compare to the previous year at the same time;

14 (8) the number of customers that entered into, successfully
15 completed, or defaulted from a deferred payment agreement, the
16 total dollar amount of arrears and average amount of arrears per
17 customer subject to those agreements, and how the numbers cited,
18 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same
19 time;

20 (9) available customer assistance programs, including terms of
21 eligibility, available budget for each program, and any
22 enhancements to the programs that are being made to address
23 anticipated increased demand;

24 (10) the number of customers that applied for financial
25 assistance under each applicable utility assistance program, and
26 how that number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the
27 previous year at the same time;

28 (11) the number of customers receiving assistance under each
29 utility assistance program at the end of each month, and how that
30 number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the previous
31 year at the same time;

32 (12) the number of customers charged late fees, penalties, and
33 interest, the total dollar amount of late fees, penalties, and interest
34 charged and average amount of late fees, penalties, and interest per
35 customer subject to such charges, and how the numbers cited,
36 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same
37 time;

38 (13) the average and median dollar amount billed to customer
39 accounts and the average and median utility usage per customer
40 account, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
41 compare to the previous year at the same time;

42 (14) the total dollar amounts billed to and collected from
43 customer accounts how the numbers cited, pursuant to this
44 paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same time, except
45 that such data need not be broken down by municipality and zip
46 code within the service area of a utility;

47 (15) the methods and contents of general communications by
48 local utilities and public utilities to customers concerning their

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1 rights and available assistance programs if customers are unable to
2 pay their bills in full, excluding any customer-specific
3 communications;

4 (16) the board's assessment of whether existing customer
5 assistance programs are presently, and in the future, sufficient to
6 meet the financial needs of customers in arrears who are unable to
7 pay those arrears in full, as well as the needs of customers who may
8 be unable to pay future bills;

9 (17) a list of any planned local utility and public utility
10 infrastructure projects that were scheduled to take place during or
11 after the reporting period that were canceled or for which the actual
12 or anticipated start date was delayed due to the financial or other
13 impacts of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

14 (18) local utility and public utility revenue, including sales
15 revenue and operating or net revenue information, and how those
16 numbers compare to the previous year at the same time; and

17 (19) each local utility's and public utility's schedule of rates and
18 charges. As used in this paragraph, "rates" mean the fixed
19 component, if any, and the volumetric or other variable component,
20 if any, of the cost of service that are applied to a category
21 of customers and "charges" mean amounts that are billed to a
22 customer under specific circumstances that are not included in the
23 provider's base rate including, but not limited to, late fees,
24 connection fees, impact fees for new development, deposits for
25 opening new accounts, and any other fees, surcharges, or penalties.

26 b. A public utility shall file with the board, in a form and
27 manner determined by the board, the information required pursuant
28 to subsection a. of this section.

29 c. A local utility shall file with the Department of Community
30 Affairs, in a form and manner determined by the board, the
31 information required pursuant to subsection a. of this section. The
32 department shall provide this information to the board in a timely
33 manner.

34 d. The board shall provide on its Internet website the reports
35 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, including in a
36 downloadable format the raw data from each report, simultaneously
37 with the completion of each report. The information provided on the
38 Internet website shall not include personally identifiable
39 information of any customer.

40

41 4. The board, in consultation with the department, may adopt,
42 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
43 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary to effectuate
44 the purposes of this act.

45

46 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

1
2
3 This bill requires the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), in
4 consultation with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), to
5 prepare and submit, within 30 days of the effective date of the bill, to
6 the Governor and to the Legislature, a written report which is to make
7 findings and recommendations concerning the effects of the
8 coronavirus 2019 pandemic on local utility and public utility service to
9 commercial and residential customers in this State.

10 The data collected from the BPU's proceeding concerning the
11 response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic is to be posted on the
12 BPU's Internet website and updated monthly until 180 days after the
13 date of the termination of public health emergency and state of
14 emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to
15 Executive Order No. 103 and extended, where applicable, by
16 subsequent executive orders. The data is to be formatted in a manner
17 determined by the BPU and is to include certain information
18 enumerated in the bill.

19 The bill requires a public utility, within 21 days of the effective date
20 of the bill, to file with the BPU, in a form and manner determined by
21 the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. A local utility is
22 to, within 21 days of the effective date of the bill, file with the DCA, in
23 a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required
24 pursuant to the bill. The DCA is to provide this information to the
25 BPU in a timely manner.

26 The bill directs the BPU to provide on its Internet website the
27 information required pursuant to the bill. The information provided on
28 the Internet website is not to include personally identifiable
29 information of any customer.

30 The bill provides that, not more than 180 days after the date of the
31 termination of public health emergency and state of emergency
32 declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive
33 Order No. 103 and extended, where applicable, by subsequent
34 executive orders, the BPU, in consultation with the DCA, is to
35 continue to collect and compile, on a quarterly basis, information
36 concerning local utility and public utility service and commercial and
37 residential customer information, which is to include, but not be
38 limited to, certain information enumerated in the bill. A public utility
39 is to file with the BPU, in a form and manner determined by the BPU,
40 the information required pursuant to the bill. A local utility is to file
41 with the DCA, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the
42 information required pursuant to the bill. The DCA is to provide this
43 information to the BPU in a timely manner.

44 The bill requires the BPU to provide on its Internet website the
45 information required pursuant to the bill simultaneously with the
46 completion of each report, which is to be updated on a quarterly basis.
47 The information provided on the Internet website is not to include
48 personally identifiable information of any customer.

ASSEMBLY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 3329

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 14, 2022

The Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3329, with committee amendments.

As amended and reported, this bill requires the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), in consultation with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), to prepare and submit, within 30 days after the conclusion of a board proceeding concerning the response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic, to the Governor and to the Legislature, a written report that is to make findings and recommendations concerning the effects of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic on local utility and public utility service to commercial and residential customers in New Jersey.

The data collected from the BPU's proceeding concerning the response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic is to be posted on the BPU's Internet website and updated monthly until 180 days after the date of the termination of the state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and continued, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders. The data is to be formatted in a manner determined by the BPU and is to include certain information enumerated in the bill.

The bill requires a public utility, within 21 days of the effective date of the bill, and monthly thereafter to file with the BPU, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. A local utility is to, within 21 days of the effective date of the bill, and monthly thereafter, file with the DCA, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. The DCA is to provide this information to the BPU in a timely manner.

The bill directs the BPU to provide on its Internet website the information required pursuant to the bill. The information provided on the Internet website is not to include personally identifiable information of any customer.

The bill provides that, not more than 180 days after the date of the termination of the state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by

the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and continued, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders, the BPU, in consultation with the DCA, is to continue to collect and compile, on a quarterly basis, information concerning local utility and public utility service and commercial and residential customer information, which is to include, but not be limited to, certain information enumerated in the bill. A public utility is to file with the BPU, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. A local utility is to file with the DCA, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. The DCA is to provide this information to the BPU in a timely manner.

The bill requires the BPU to provide on its Internet website the information required pursuant to the bill simultaneously with the completion of each report, which is to be updated on a quarterly basis. The information provided on the Internet website is not to include personally identifiable information of any customer.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to remove reference to the public health emergency and change the word “extended” to “continued” for consistency with the executive orders. The committee also amended the bill to clarify that certain data refer back to the same month in 2019.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3329

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 2022

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3329 (1R).

As reported, this bill requires the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), in consultation with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), to prepare and submit, within 30 days after the conclusion of a board proceeding concerning the response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic, to the Governor and to the Legislature, a written report that is to make findings and recommendations concerning the effects of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic on local utility and public utility service to commercial and residential customers in New Jersey.

The data collected from the BPU's proceeding concerning the response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic is to be posted on the BPU's Internet website and updated monthly until 180 days after the date of the termination of the state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and continued, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders. The data is to be formatted in a manner determined by the BPU and is to include certain information enumerated in the bill.

The bill requires a public utility, within 21 days of the effective date of the bill and monthly thereafter, until 180 days after the termination of the state of emergency, to file with the BPU, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. A local utility is, within 21 days of the effective date of the bill and monthly thereafter, until 180 days after the termination of the state of emergency, to file with the DCA, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. The DCA is to provide this information to the BPU in a timely manner.

The bill directs the BPU to provide on its Internet website the information required pursuant to the bill. The information provided on the Internet website is not to include personally identifiable information of any customer.

The bill provides that, not more than 180 days after the date of the termination of the state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and continued, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders, the BPU, in

consultation with the DCA, is to continue to collect and compile, on a quarterly basis, information concerning local utility and public utility service and commercial and residential customer information, which is to include, but not be limited to, certain information enumerated in the bill. A public utility is to file with the BPU, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. A local utility is to file with the DCA, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. The DCA is to provide this information to the BPU in a timely manner.

The bill requires the BPU to provide on its Internet website the information required pursuant to the bill simultaneously with the completion of each report, which is to be updated on a quarterly basis. The information provided on the Internet website is not to include personally identifiable information of any customer.

As reported, Assembly Bill No. 3329 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 994, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 3329

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator RUIZ)

ADOPTED: JUNE 16, 2022

These Senate Floor Amendments require the collection and posting of certain data on the Board of Public Utilities' (board) website, as required by the bill, to be done quarterly until 24 months after the effective date of the bill, instead of monthly until the 180 days after the termination of the executive orders declaring the state or emergency. The amendments also require the board's final report, prepared in consultation with the Department of Community Affairs, to be completed within 30 months of the effective date of the bill, instead of 180 days after the termination of the executive orders declaring the state or emergency.

The amendments also clarify that certain data reported by the board refer to the same applicable time in 2019, instead of the same applicable month in 2019.

Lastly, the amendments provide that each local utility is required to file and provide certain data, as required under the bill, in accordance with the timeframes and methods established for public utilities under the bill.

SENATE, No. 994

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 31, 2022

Sponsored by:
Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires BPU to conduct study of effect of coronavirus 2019 pandemic on local and public utility service and to quarterly collect and publish certain local and public utility service and customer information.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning local and public utility service and customer
2 information and supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

9 “Board” means the Board of Public Utilities or any successor
10 agency.

11 “Coronavirus 2019” means the coronavirus disease 2019, as
12 announced by the World Health Organization on February 11, 2020,
13 and first identified in Wuhan, China.

14 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

15 “Local utility” means any sewerage authority created pursuant to
16 the “sewerage authorities law,” P.L.1946, c.138 (C.40:14A-1 et
17 seq.); any utilities authority created pursuant to the “municipal and
18 county utilities authorities law,” P.L.1957, c.183 (C.40:14B-1 et
19 seq.); or any municipal, county, or regional utility, authority,
20 commission, special district, or other local government entity, not
21 regulated by the Board of Public Utilities, that provides electricity,
22 gas, heat, power, sewer, or water service.

23 “Personally identifiable information” means any information that
24 is linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable
25 customer.

26 “Public utility” means a public utility, defined pursuant to
27 R.S.48:2-13, providing electric, gas, sewer, or water service to
28 customers.

29

30 2. a. The Board of Public Utilities, in consultation with the
31 Department of Community Affairs, shall prepare and submit, within
32 30 days after the conclusion of a board proceeding concerning the
33 response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic, to the Governor and,
34 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
35 Legislature, a written report which shall make findings and
36 recommendations concerning the effect the coronavirus 2019
37 pandemic has had on local utility and public utility service to
38 commercial and residential customers in this State. The data
39 collected from the board’s proceeding concerning the response to
40 the coronavirus 2019 pandemic shall be posted on the board’s
41 Internet website and updated monthly until 180 days after the date
42 of the termination of public health emergency and state of
43 emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to
44 Executive Order No. 103 and extended, where applicable, by
45 subsequent executive orders. The data shall be formatted in a
46 manner determined by the board and shall include, but not be
47 limited to, the following information organized by month, utility

S994 RUIZ

1 name, type of utility service provided, customer class, municipality,
2 and zip code:

3 (1) the overall impact on local utility and public utility supply,
4 demand, revenues, and expenses;

5 (2) the number of local utility and public utility customers, for
6 each category of utility service and how those numbers compare to
7 the previous year at the same time;

8 (3) the number of local utility and public utility service
9 customer disconnection notices sent due to bill non-payment,
10 service disconnections due to bill non-payment, service
11 reconnections of customers disconnected for bill non-payment,
12 average time between service disconnection due to non-payment
13 and service reconnection, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to
14 this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same time;

15 (4) as applicable, the number of liens on real property placed,
16 sold, or enforced due to non-payment, and how those numbers
17 compare to the previous year at the same time;

18 (5) the number of customers in arrears by 30, 60, 90, 120, 150,
19 and 180 days at the end of each month, the total dollar amount owed
20 and average amount owed per customer in each of those categories,
21 and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compare to
22 the previous year at the same time;

23 (6) the number of customer accounts that became eligible for
24 disconnection due to bill nonpayment but were not disconnected
25 because of any legally mandated or voluntary suspension of
26 disconnections due the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

27 (7) the number of customers enrolled in deferred payment
28 agreements at the end of each month, the total dollar amount of
29 arrears and average amount of arrears per customer subject to those
30 agreements, the average length of the repayment term under those
31 agreements, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
32 compare to the previous year at the same time;

33 (8) the number of customers that entered into, successfully
34 completed, or defaulted from a deferred payment agreement, the
35 total dollar amount of arrears and average amount of arrears per
36 customer subject to those agreements, and how the numbers cited,
37 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same
38 time;

39 (9) available customer assistance programs, including terms of
40 eligibility, available budget for each program, and any
41 enhancements to the programs that are being made to address
42 anticipated increased demand;

43 (10) the number of customers that applied for financial
44 assistance under each applicable utility assistance program, and
45 how that number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the
46 previous year at the same time;

47 (11) the number of customers receiving assistance under each
48 utility assistance program at the end of each month, and how that

1 number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the previous
2 year at the same time;

3 (12) the number of customers charged late fees, penalties, and
4 interest, the total dollar amount of late fees, penalties, and interest
5 charged and average amount of late fees, penalties, and interest per
6 customer subject to such charges, and how the numbers cited,
7 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same
8 time;

9 (13) the average and median dollar amount billed to customer
10 accounts and the average and median utility usage per customer
11 account, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
12 compare to the previous year at the same time;

13 (14) the total dollar amounts billed to and collected from
14 customer accounts how the numbers cited, pursuant to this
15 paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same time, except
16 that such data need not be broken down by municipality and zip
17 code within the service area of a utility;

18 (15) the methods and contents of general communications by
19 local utilities and public utilities to customers concerning their
20 rights and available assistance programs if customers are unable to
21 pay their bills in full, excluding any customer-specific
22 communications;

23 (16) the board's assessment of whether existing customer
24 assistance programs are presently, and in the future, sufficient to
25 meet the financial needs of customers in arrears who are unable to
26 pay those arrears in full, as well as the needs of customers who may
27 be unable to pay future bills;

28 (17) a list of any planned local utility and public utility
29 infrastructure projects that were scheduled to take place during or
30 after the reporting period that were canceled or for which the actual
31 or anticipated start date was delayed due to the financial or other
32 impacts of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

33 (18) local utility and public utility revenue, including sales
34 revenue and operating or net revenue information, and how those
35 numbers compare to the previous year at the same time; and

36 (19) each local utility's and public utility's schedule of rates and
37 charges. As used in this paragraph, "rates" mean the fixed
38 component, if any, and the volumetric or other variable component,
39 if any, of the cost of service that are applied to a category
40 of customers and "charges" mean amounts that are billed to a
41 customer under specific circumstances that are not included in the
42 provider's base rate including, but not limited to, late fees,
43 connection fees, impact fees for new development, deposits for
44 opening new accounts, and any other fees, surcharges, or penalties.

45 b. A public utility shall, within 21 days of the effective date of
46 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and
47 monthly thereafter until 180 days after the date of the termination of
48 public health emergency and state of emergency declared on March

1 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and
2 extended, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders, file
3 with the board, in a form and manner determined by the board, the
4 information required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

5 c. A local utility shall, within 21 days of the effective date of
6 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and
7 monthly thereafter until 180 days after the date of the termination of
8 public health emergency and state of emergency declared on March
9 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and
10 extended, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders, file
11 with the Department of Community Affairs, in a form and manner
12 determined by the board, the information required pursuant to
13 subsection a. of this section. The department shall provide this
14 information to the board in a timely manner.

15 d. The board shall provide on its Internet website the data
16 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, including in a
17 downloadable format the raw data from each update. The data
18 provided on the Internet website pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.)
19 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall not include
20 personally identifiable information of any customer.

21
22 3. a. Not more than 180 days after the date of the termination
23 of public health emergency and state of emergency declared on
24 March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No.
25 103 and extended, where applicable, by subsequent executive
26 orders, the board, in consultation with the department, shall collect
27 and compile in a report, on a quarterly basis, information
28 concerning local utility and public utility service and commercial
29 and residential customer information, which shall include, but not
30 be limited to the following, with all information organized by
31 month, utility name type of utility service provided, customer class,
32 municipality, and zip code:

33 (1) local utility and public utility supply, demand, revenue, and
34 expense information;

35 (2) the number of local utility and public utility customers, for
36 each category of utility service and how those numbers compare to
37 the previous year at the same time;

38 (3) the number of local utility and public utility service
39 customer disconnection notices sent due to bill non-payment,
40 service disconnections due to bill non-payment, service
41 reconnections disconnected for bill non-payment, and how the
42 numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous
43 year at the same time;

44 (4) as applicable, the number of liens on real property placed,
45 sold, or enforced due to non-payment, and how those numbers
46 compare to the previous year at the same time;

47 (5) the number of customers in arrears by 30, 60, 90, 120, 150,
48 and 180 days at the end of each month, the total dollar amount owed

1 and average amount owed per customer in each of those categories,
2 and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compare to
3 the previous year at the same time;

4 (6) the number of customer accounts that became eligible for
5 disconnection due to bill nonpayment but were not disconnected
6 because of any legally mandated or voluntary suspension of
7 disconnections due the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

8 (7) the number of customers enrolled in deferred payment
9 agreements at the end of each month, the total dollar amount of
10 arrears and average amount of arrears per customer subject to those
11 agreements, the average length of the repayment term under those
12 agreements, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
13 compare to the previous year at the same time;

14 (8) the number of customers that entered into, successfully
15 completed, or defaulted from a deferred payment agreement, the
16 total dollar amount of arrears and average amount of arrears per
17 customer subject to those agreements, and how the numbers cited,
18 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same
19 time;

20 (9) available customer assistance programs, including terms of
21 eligibility, available budget for each program, and any
22 enhancements to the programs that are being made to address
23 anticipated increased demand;

24 (10) the number of customers that applied for financial
25 assistance under each applicable utility assistance program, and
26 how that number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the
27 previous year at the same time;

28 (11) the number of customers receiving assistance under each
29 utility assistance program at the end of each month, and how that
30 number cited, pursuant to this paragraph, compares to the previous
31 year at the same time;

32 (12) the number of customers charged late fees, penalties, and
33 interest, the total dollar amount of late fees, penalties, and interest
34 charged and average amount of late fees, penalties, and interest per
35 customer subject to such charges, and how the numbers cited,
36 pursuant to this paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same
37 time;

38 (13) the average and median dollar amount billed to customer
39 accounts and the average and median utility usage per customer
40 account, and how the numbers cited, pursuant to this paragraph,
41 compare to the previous year at the same time;

42 (14) the total dollar amounts billed to and collected from
43 customer accounts how the numbers cited, pursuant to this
44 paragraph, compare to the previous year at the same time, except
45 that such data need not be broken down by municipality and zip
46 code within the service area of a utility;

47 (15) the methods and contents of general communications by
48 local utilities and public utilities to customers concerning their

1 rights and available assistance programs if customers are unable to
2 pay their bills in full, excluding any customer-specific
3 communications;

4 (16) the board's assessment of whether existing customer
5 assistance programs are presently, and in the future, sufficient to
6 meet the financial needs of customers in arrears who are unable to
7 pay those arrears in full, as well as the needs of customers who may
8 be unable to pay future bills;

9 (17) a list of any planned local utility and public utility
10 infrastructure projects that were scheduled to take place during or
11 after the reporting period that were canceled or for which the actual
12 or anticipated start date was delayed due to the financial or other
13 impacts of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic;

14 (18) local utility and public utility revenue, including sales
15 revenue and operating or net revenue information, and how those
16 numbers compare to the previous year at the same time; and

17 (19) each local utility's and public utility's schedule of rates and
18 charges. As used in this paragraph, "rates" mean the fixed
19 component, if any, and the volumetric or other variable component,
20 if any, of the cost of service that are applied to a category
21 of customers and "charges" mean amounts that are billed to a
22 customer under specific circumstances that are not included in the
23 provider's base rate including, but not limited to, late fees,
24 connection fees, impact fees for new development, deposits for
25 opening new accounts, and any other fees, surcharges, or penalties.

26 b. A public utility shall file with the board, in a form and
27 manner determined by the board, the information required pursuant
28 to subsection a. of this section.

29 c. A local utility shall file with the Department of Community
30 Affairs, in a form and manner determined by the board, the
31 information required pursuant to subsection a. of this section. The
32 department shall provide this information to the board in a timely
33 manner.

34 d. The board shall provide on its Internet website the reports
35 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, including in a
36 downloadable format the raw data from each report, simultaneously
37 with the completion of each report. The information provided on the
38 Internet website shall not include personally identifiable
39 information of any customer.

40

41 4. The board, in consultation with the department, may adopt,
42 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
43 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary to effectuate
44 the purposes of this act.

45

46 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill requires the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), in consultation with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), to prepare and submit, within 30 days of the effective date of the bill, to the Governor and to the Legislature, a written report which is to make findings and recommendations concerning the effects of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic on local utility and public utility service to commercial and residential customers in this State.

The data collected from the BPU's proceeding concerning the response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic is to be posted on the BPU's Internet website and updated monthly until 180 days after the date of the termination of public health emergency and state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and extended, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders. The data is to be formatted in a manner determined by the BPU and is to include certain information enumerated in the bill.

The bill requires a public utility, within 21 days of the effective date of the bill, to file with the BPU, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. A local utility is to, within 21 days of the effective date of the bill, file with the DCA, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. The DCA is to provide this information to the BPU in a timely manner.

The bill directs the BPU to provide on its Internet website the information required pursuant to the bill. The information provided on the Internet website is not to include personally identifiable information of any customer.

The bill provides that, not more than 180 days after the date of the termination of public health emergency and state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and extended, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders, the BPU, in consultation with the DCA, is to continue to collect and compile, on a quarterly basis, information concerning local utility and public utility service and commercial and residential customer information, which is to include, but not be limited to, certain information enumerated in the bill. A public utility is to file with the BPU, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. A local utility is to file with the DCA, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. The DCA is to provide this information to the BPU in a timely manner.

The bill requires the BPU to provide on its Internet website the information required pursuant to the bill simultaneously with the completion of each report, which is to be updated on a quarterly basis. The information provided on the Internet website is not to include personally identifiable information of any customer.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 994

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 2022

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 994.

As amended and reported, this bill requires the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), in consultation with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), to prepare and submit, within 30 days after the conclusion of a board proceeding concerning the response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic, to the Governor and to the Legislature, a written report that is to make findings and recommendations concerning the effects of the coronavirus 2019 pandemic on local utility and public utility service to commercial and residential customers in New Jersey.

The data collected from the BPU's proceeding concerning the response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic is to be posted on the BPU's Internet website and updated monthly until 180 days after the date of the termination of the state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and continued, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders. The data is to be formatted in a manner determined by the BPU and is to include certain information enumerated in the bill.

The bill requires a public utility, within 21 days of the effective date of the bill and monthly thereafter, until 180 days after the termination of the state of emergency, to file with the BPU, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. A local utility is, within 21 days of the effective date of the bill and monthly thereafter, until 180 days after the termination of the state of emergency, to file with the DCA, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. The DCA is to provide this information to the BPU in a timely manner.

The bill directs the BPU to provide on its Internet website the information required pursuant to the bill. The information provided on the Internet website is not to include personally identifiable information of any customer.

The bill provides that, not more than 180 days after the date of the termination of the state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and continued,

where applicable, by subsequent executive orders, the BPU, in consultation with the DCA, is to continue to collect and compile, on a quarterly basis, information concerning local utility and public utility service and commercial and residential customer information, which is to include, but not be limited to, certain information enumerated in the bill. A public utility is to file with the BPU, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. A local utility is to file with the DCA, in a form and manner determined by the BPU, the information required pursuant to the bill. The DCA is to provide this information to the BPU in a timely manner.

The bill requires the BPU to provide on its Internet website the information required pursuant to the bill simultaneously with the completion of each report, which is to be updated on a quarterly basis. The information provided on the Internet website is not to include personally identifiable information of any customer.

The committee amended the bill to remove reference to the public health emergency and change the word “extended” to “continued” for consistency with the executive orders. The committee also amended the bill to clarify that certain data refer back to the same month in 2019.

As amended and reported, Senate Bill No. 994 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3329 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 994

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator RUIZ)

ADOPTED: JUNE 16, 2022

These Senate Floor Amendments require the collection and posting of certain data on the Board of Public Utilities' (board) website, as required by the bill, to be done quarterly until 24 months after the effective date of the bill, instead of monthly until the 180 days after the termination of the executive orders declaring the state or emergency. The amendments also require the board's final report, prepared in consultation with the Department of Community Affairs, to be completed within 30 months of the effective date of the bill, instead of 180 days after the termination of the executive orders declaring the state or emergency.

The amendments also clarify that certain data reported by the board refer to the same applicable time in 2019, instead of the same applicable month in 2019.

Lastly, the amendments provide that each local utility is required to file and provide certain data, as required under the bill, in accordance with the timeframes and methods established for public utilities under the bill.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1800

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 21, 2022

The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1800.

This bill creates a Purple Star Schools Program in the Department of Education. Under the program, the Commissioner of Education will annually recognize as Purple Star Schools those public and nonpublic schools that provide for, or have made significant progress to respond to, the educational and social-emotional challenges military-connected students encounter during the transition to a new school when the student's parent or guardian is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces and is relocated due to the active duty member's continued military service.

Under the bill, a Purple Star School will be designated as such if it provides programs and services that include, but need not be limited to, the following:

(1) training for faculty and staff members to ease entry into the new school environment for military-connected students;

(2) student-led programs to help create social connections, including an emphasis on programs for students who arrive mid-year and miss out on the normal cycles of sports and club activities;

(3) a military family webpage on the school website to inform parents and guardians about programs and services;

(4) relevant professional development opportunities for additional school staff; and

(5) holding school-wide military recognition events that raise awareness and recognize the value of military service.

The bill also requires the commissioner to establish a Purple Star Schools Working Group. The purpose of the working group is to develop criteria to be used in the designation of public and nonpublic schools as Purple Star Schools. The working group will consist of members appointed by the commissioner and will be composed of: a school principal; a school administrator; a school board member; an elementary school teacher; a middle school teacher; a high school teacher; a school counselor; a school social worker; and a school psychologist.

The criteria established by the working group for a Purple Star Schools designation will include, but need not be limited to, the school's efforts to:

(1) raise awareness and recognize the value of military service, including the sacrifices of military-connected families;

(2) respond to the unique educational and social-emotional challenges of military-connected students;

(3) highlight and promote equity, inclusion, and belonging;

(4) create safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for all students, faculty, and staff;

(5) provide teachers, faculty, and staff with opportunities for instruction in easing the entry into the new school environment for military-connected students; and

(6) provide the programs and services necessary to ensure that staff can manage the challenges military-connected students encounter, as enumerated by the bill.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

09/15/2022

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills and resolutions into law:

A-2021/S-1138 (Conaway, Benson/Gopal) - Requires embryo storage facilities to record and report health information of patients in manner that is consistent with certain federal laws

A-3329/S-994 (McKnight/Ruiz) - Requires BPU to conduct study of effect of coronavirus 2019 pandemic on local and public utility service and to quarterly collect and publish certain local and public utility service and customer information

A-3694/S-1800 (Moen, McKnight/Gopal, Stanfield) - Establishes “Purple Star Schools Program” in DOE to recognize schools which emphasize importance of assisting children of military families

A-4127/S-2743 (Stanley, Spearman, Murphy/Greenstein, Singleton) - Mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for professional firefighters not enrolled in SHBP; makes appropriation

A-4254/S-2852 (Coughlin, Karabinchak, Kennedy, Lopez/Diegnan) - Excludes electricity supplied to recycled materials manufacturing facilities from renewable energy portfolio standards

A-4373/S-2900 (Calabrese, Speight/Sarlo) - Permits municipal emergency management coordinators to reside within reasonable proximity to municipality in which they are employed

AJR-57/SJR-47 (Moen, Mukherji, Dancer/Beach, Cruz-Perez) - Expresses support for commissioning of SSN-796, U.S.S. New Jersey, in New Jersey

The Governor vetoed the following bills:

A-793/S-1427 (Timberlake, Tucker, Reynolds-Jackson/Gill, Turner) – **CONDITIONAL** - Creates “Community Wealth Preservation Program”; expands access for certain buyers to purchase property from sheriff’s sales

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A-3149/S-438 (McKeon, Dancer, Benson/Smith, Codey) - **CONDITIONAL** - Changes entity responsible for management of NJ School of Conservation to nonprofit organization, and directs DOE to request funding for center annually

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A-4101/S-2666 (Lopez, Coughlin/Vitale, Corrado) - **CONDITIONAL** - Requires MVC to prompt applicant for certain documents to enter information into “Next-of-Kin Registry

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A-4107/S-2768 (Schaer, Conaway, Verrelli/Vitale, Singer) - **CONDITIONAL** - Makes various changes concerning regulation of emergency medical services; establishes mobile integrated health program and new State Emergency Medical Services Medical Director in DOH

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A-2676/S-1212 (McClellan/Testa) – **ABSOLUTE** - Revises permitting thresholds for certain types of development requiring CAFRA permit from DEP

