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P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 97, *approved May 12, 2021*
Assembly, No. 4671 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT requiring public and local utilities to provide notice of
2 certain relief measures during the coronavirus disease 2019
3 pandemic.

4

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

7

8 1. a. A public utility and local utility shall notify, in a form
9 and manner determined by the public utility and local utility,
10 respectively, each of its residential customers of information and
11 resources available to residential customers concerning public
12 utility and local utility service and bill payment assistance during
13 the coronavirus 2019 pandemic.

14 b. The notification shall include, but not be limited to,
15 information concerning any:

16 (1) moratorium in effect on the disconnection, discontinuance,
17 or termination of public utility or local utility service;

18 (2) deferred bill payment agreement program;

19 (3) bill payment assistance program; ¹**[and]**¹

20 (4) arrearage forgiveness program ¹; and

21 (5) moratorium in effect on rate increases or on the imposition
22 of late fees, interest, or liens for late payments¹.

23 c. A public utility and local utility shall provide the notification
24 required, pursuant to subsection a. of this section, ¹**[on a quarterly**
25 **basis]** ²[in the same manner and frequency that the customer
26 receives a regular bill, ¹] monthly, in a form and manner determined
27 by the Board of Public Utilities or Department of Community
28 Affairs, as applicable,² until 18 months after the date of the
29 termination of Executive Order No. 103 of 2020, which authorized
30 the State of Emergency in response to the coronavirus 2019
31 pandemic. ²For a municipality served by a public utility or local
32 utility in which the primary language of 10 percent or more of the
33 population is a language other than English, the public utility or
34 local utility shall provide notification in that other language or
35 languages for use by customers in that municipality.² ¹A public
36 utility and local utility shall publish the required information
37 prominently on its website.¹

38 d. ¹**[The Department of Community Affairs, in consultation**
39 **with the Board of Public Utilities, shall compile information on**
40 **State and federal policies and programs concerning public utility**

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 SEG committee amendments adopted January 14, 2021.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted March 1, 2021.

1 and local utility service and bill payment assistance, which shall be
2 made available to each public utility and local utility, and shall be
3 included in the notice required by subsection a. of this section. **]**
4 Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a local utility to
5 establish or administer a bill payment assistance program not
6 authorized by law.¹

7 e. As used in this section:

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

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

19 “Public utility” means a public utility, defined pursuant to
20 R.S.48:2-13, providing electric, gas, sewer, or water service to
21 residential customers.

22

23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

24

25

26

27

28 _____
29 Requires public and local utilities to provide notice to residential
30 customers of available relief measures during coronavirus disease
2019 pandemic.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4671

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

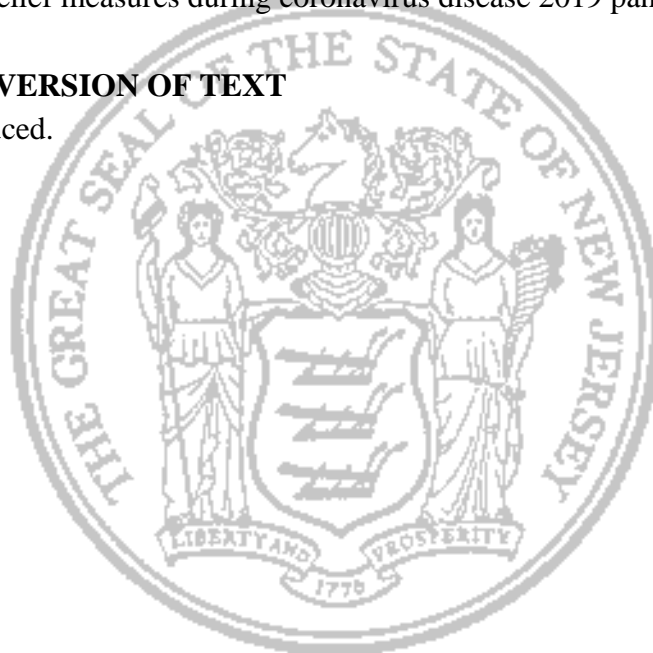
**Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle, Assemblymen Benson, Conaway,
Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblymen Freiman, Wimberly,
Assemblywoman Lopez, Assemblyman Verrelli, Assemblywomen Jasey
and Mosquera**

SYNOPSIS

Requires public and local utilities to provide notice to residential customers of available relief measures during coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)

1 AN ACT requiring public and local utilities to provide notice of
2 certain relief measures during the coronavirus disease 2019
3 pandemic.

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

7
8 1. a. A public utility and local utility shall notify, in a form
9 and manner determined by the public utility and local utility,
10 respectively, each of its residential customers of information and
11 resources available to residential customers concerning public
12 utility and local utility service and bill payment assistance during
13 the coronavirus 2019 pandemic.

14 b. The notification shall include, but not be limited to,
15 information concerning any:

16 (1) moratorium in effect on the disconnection, discontinuance, or
17 termination of public utility or local utility service;

18 (2) deferred bill payment agreement program;

19 (3) bill payment assistance program; and

20 (4) arrearage forgiveness program.

21 c. A public utility and local utility shall provide the notification
22 required, pursuant to subsection a. of this section, on a quarterly
23 basis until 18 months after the date of the termination of Executive
24 Order No. 103 of 2020, which authorized the State of Emergency in
25 response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic.

26 d. The Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with
27 the Board of Public Utilities, shall compile information on State and
28 federal policies and programs concerning public utility and local
29 utility service and bill payment assistance, which shall be made
30 available to each public utility and local utility, and shall be
31 included in the notice required by subsection a. of this section.

32 e. As used in this section:

33 "Coronavirus 2019" means the coronavirus disease 2019, as
34 announced by the World Health Organization on February 11, 2020,
35 and first identified in Wuhan, China.

36 "Local utility" means any sewerage authority created pursuant to
37 the "sewerage authorities law," P.L.1946, c.138 (C.40:14A-1 et
38 seq.); any utilities authority created pursuant to the "municipal and
39 county utilities authorities law," P.L.1957, c.183 (C.40:14B-1 et
40 seq.); or any municipal, county, or regional utility, authority,
41 commission, special district, or other corporate entity, not regulated
42 by the Board of Public Utilities, that provides electricity, gas, heat,
43 power, sewer, or water service.

44 "Public utility" means a public utility, defined pursuant to
45 R.S.48:2-13, providing electric, gas, sewer, or water service to
46 residential customers.

47
48 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

1 STATEMENT

2

3 This bill requires a public utility and local utility to notify, in a
4 form and manner determined by the public utility and local utility,
5 respectively, each of its residential customers of information and
6 resources available to residential customers concerning utility
7 service and bill payment assistance during the coronavirus 2019
8 pandemic.

9 The notices required by the bill would have to contain
10 information on any:

- 11 1) moratorium in effect on the disconnection, discontinuance, or
12 termination of utility service;
13 2) deferred bill payment agreement program;
14 3) bill payment assistance program; and
15 4) arrearage forgiveness program.

16 The notices are to be provided on a quarterly basis until 18
17 months after the date of the termination of Executive Order No. 103
18 of 2020, which authorized the State of Emergency in response to the
19 coronavirus 2019 pandemic.

20 The bill also requires the Department of Community Affairs, in
21 consultation with the Board of Public Utilities, to compile
22 information on State and federal policies and programs concerning
23 utility service and bill payment assistance that are to be included in
24 the notices required by the bill and to make that information
25 available to public and local utilities.

ASSEMBLY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4671

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 19, 2020

The Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4671.

As reported, this bill requires a public utility and local utility to notify, in a form and manner determined by the public utility and local utility, respectively, each of its residential customers of information and resources available to residential customers concerning utility service and bill payment assistance during the coronavirus 2019 pandemic. The notices required by the bill would have to contain information on any: 1) moratorium in effect on the disconnection, discontinuance, or termination of utility service; 2) deferred bill payment agreement program; 3) bill payment assistance program; and 4) arrearage forgiveness program. The notices are to be provided on a quarterly basis until 18 months after the date of the termination of Executive Order No. 103 of 2020, which authorized the State of Emergency in response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic.

The bill requires the Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with the Board of Public Utilities, to compile information on State and federal policies and programs concerning public utility and local utility service and bill payment assistance, which is to be made available to every public utility and local utility and is to be included in the notices required by the bill.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO ASSEMBLY, No. 4671

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 14, 2021

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4671.

As amended and reported, this bill requires a public utility and local utility to notify, in a form and manner determined by the public utility and local utility, respectively, each of its residential customers of information and resources available to residential customers concerning utility service and bill payment assistance during the coronavirus 2019 pandemic. The notices required by the bill would have to contain information on any: 1) moratorium in effect on the disconnection, discontinuance, or termination of utility service; 2) deferred bill payment agreement program; 3) bill payment assistance program; 4) arrearage forgiveness program; and 5) moratorium in effect on rate increases or on the imposition of late fees, interest, or liens for late payments. The notices are to be provided in the same manner and frequency that regular bills are provided, until 18 months after the date of the termination of Executive Order No. 103 of 2020, which authorized the State of Emergency in response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic. This information also is to be published prominently on the public utility and local utility websites.

The bill's provisions are not to be construed as permitting a local utility from establishing or administering a bill payment assistance program that is not permitted by law.

The committee amended the bill to include information about any moratorium in effect on rate increases or on the imposition of late fees, interest, or liens for late payments in the required notice, to change the notification frequency from quarterly to match regular billing frequency, to require the notice to be provided in the same manner as regular bills, and to also require the information to be provided on public utility and local utility websites. Finally, the amendments remove a provision requiring the Department of Community Affairs and Board of Public Utilities to compile a list of State and federal bill payment assistance programs and for the public utilities and local utilities to distribute that information to their customers in the notifications required under this bill. A replacement provision provides that nothing in the bill is to be

construed as permitting a local utility from establishing or administering a bill payment assistance program that is not permitted by law.

As amended and reported, Assembly Bill No. 4671 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3326, which was also reported and amended by the committee on this date.

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4671

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblyman SCHAER)

ADOPTED: MARCH 1, 2021

These floor amendments require a public utility and local utility to provide the notice required pursuant to this bill to customers on a monthly basis, in a form and manner determined by the Board of Public Utilities or Department of Community Affairs, as applicable. The floor amendments also require that, for a municipality served by a public utility or local utility in which the primary language of 10 percent or more of the population is a language other than English, the public utility or local utility is to provide notification in that other language or languages for use by customers in that municipality.

SENATE, No. 3326

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 7, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Cruz-Perez and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires public and local utilities to provide notice to residential customers of available relief measures during coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/14/2021)

1 AN ACT requiring public and local utilities to provide notice of
2 certain relief measures during the coronavirus disease 2019
3 pandemic.

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

7
8 1. a. A public utility and local utility shall notify, in a form
9 and manner determined by the public utility and local utility,
10 respectively, each of its residential customers of information and
11 resources available to residential customers concerning public
12 utility and local utility service and bill payment assistance during
13 the coronavirus 2019 pandemic.

14 b. The notification shall include, but not be limited to,
15 information concerning any:

16 (1) moratorium in effect on the disconnection, discontinuance,
17 or termination of public utility or local utility service;

18 (2) deferred bill payment agreement program;

19 (3) bill payment assistance program; and

20 (4) arrearage forgiveness program.

21 c. A public utility and local utility shall provide the notification
22 required, pursuant to subsection a. of this section, on a quarterly
23 basis until 18 months after the date of the termination of Executive
24 Order No. 103 of 2020, which authorized the State of Emergency in
25 response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic.

26 d. The Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with
27 the Board of Public Utilities, shall compile information on State and
28 federal policies and programs concerning public utility and local
29 utility service and bill payment assistance, which shall be made
30 available to each public utility and local utility, and shall be
31 included in the notice required by subsection a. of this section.

32 e. As used in this section:

33 "Coronavirus 2019" means the coronavirus disease 2019, as
34 announced by the World Health Organization on February 11, 2020,
35 and first identified in Wuhan, China.

36 "Local utility" means any sewerage authority created pursuant to
37 the "sewerage authorities law," P.L.1946, c.138 (C.40:14A-1 et
38 seq.); any utilities authority created pursuant to the "municipal and
39 county utilities authorities law," P.L.1957, c.183 (C.40:14B-1 et
40 seq.); or any municipal, county, or regional utility, authority,
41 commission, special district, or other corporate entity, not regulated
42 by the Board of Public Utilities, that provides electricity, gas, heat,
43 power, sewer, or water service.

44 "Public utility" means a public utility, defined pursuant to
45 R.S.48:2-13, providing electric, gas, sewer, or water service to
46 residential customers.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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3

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STATEMENT

5

6 This bill requires a public utility and local utility to notify, in a
7 form and manner determined by the public utility and local utility,
8 respectively, each of its residential customers of information and
9 resources available to residential customers concerning utility
10 service and bill payment assistance during the coronavirus 2019
11 pandemic.

12 The notices required by the bill would have to contain
13 information on any:

14 1) moratorium in effect on the disconnection, discontinuance,
15 or termination of utility service;

16 2) deferred bill payment agreement program;

17 3) bill payment assistance program; and

18 4) arrearage forgiveness program.

19 The notices are to be provided on a quarterly basis until 18
20 months after the date of the termination of Executive Order No. 103
21 of 2020, which authorized the State of Emergency in response to the
22 coronavirus 2019 pandemic.

23 The bill also requires the Department of Community Affairs, in
24 consultation with the Board of Public Utilities, to compile
25 information on State and federal policies and programs concerning
26 utility service and bill payment assistance that are to be included in
27 the notices required by the bill and to make that information
28 available to public and local utilities.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3326

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 14, 2021

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3326.

As amended and reported, this bill requires a public utility and local utility to notify, in a form and manner determined by the public utility and local utility, respectively, each of its residential customers of information and resources available to residential customers concerning utility service and bill payment assistance during the coronavirus 2019 pandemic. The notices required by the bill would have to contain information on any: 1) moratorium in effect on the disconnection, discontinuance, or termination of utility service; 2) deferred bill payment agreement program; 3) bill payment assistance program; 4) arrearage forgiveness program; and 5) moratorium in effect on rate increases or on the imposition of late fees, interest, or liens for late payments. The notices are to be provided in the same manner and frequency that regular bills are provided, until 18 months after the date of the termination of Executive Order No. 103 of 2020, which authorized the State of Emergency in response to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic. This information is to be published prominently on the public utility and local utility websites.

The bill's provisions are not to be construed as permitting a local utility from establishing or administering a bill payment assistance program that is not permitted by law.

The committee amended the bill to include information about any moratorium in effect on rate increases or on the imposition of late fees, interest, or liens for late payments in the required notice, to change the notification frequency from quarterly to match regular billing frequency, to require the notice to be provided in the same manner as regular bills, and to also require the information to be provided on public utility and local utility websites. Finally, the amendments remove a provision requiring the Department of Community Affairs and Board of Public Utilities to compile a list of State and federal bill payment assistance programs and for the public utilities and local utilities to distribute that information to their customers in the notifications required under this bill. A

replacement provision provides that nothing in the bill is to be construed as permitting a local utility from establishing or administering a bill payment assistance program that is not permitted by law.

As amended and reported, Senate Bill No. 3326 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4671, which was also reported and amended by the committee on this date.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

05/12/2021

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

A-740/S-2846 (Johnson, Conaway, DeCroce/Gopal, Singleton) – Requires State agencies in awarding contracts for purchase of items that require power source to consider items powered by fuel cells

A-3384/S-3171 (McKeon/Pou) – Makes various revisions to "Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act"; renames act to "Uniform Voidable Transactions Act"

A-4240/S-2855 (Downey, Vainieri Huttle, Houghtaling, Coughlin/Pou, Turner) – Provides for technological upgrade of application process for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

A-4246/S-3175 (Verrelli, Benson, Vainieri Huttle/Pou, Corrado) – Permits expedited licensure in mental health professions for certain individuals during state of emergency or public health emergency

A-4477/S-2789 (Chiaravalloti, Conaway, Downey/Vitale, Weinberg) – Revises licensure, operational, and reporting requirements for nursing homes

ACS for A-4556 and 4145/S-2611 (Karabinchak, Zwicker, Quijano/Smith, Bateman) – Requires BPU to establish and maintain electronic public document search system on its website; requires BPU to provide certain notice of its meetings and hold quarterly public comment meetings

A-4671/S-3326 (Schaer, Swain, Tully/Ruiz, Singleton) – Requires public and local utilities to provide notice to residential customers of available relief measures during coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic

ACS for A-4805/SCS for S-3169 (Freiman, Tully, Danielsen/Pou, Gopal) – Requires certain insurers to provide summary concerning business interruption insurance

A-4806/S-3188 (Dancer, Chiaravalloti/Pou, Singleton) – Permits municipalities to authorize programs encouraging local shopping through property tax rewards; validates certain related municipal actions

A-4932/S-3066 (Johnson, Murphy, Downey/Pou) – Permits use of alternate names by limited liability partnerships

A-5222/S-3306 (Mukherji, Verrelli, Lopez/Diegnan, Turner) – Authorizes optometrists to administer immunizations against coronaviruses and influenza under certain circumstances

Governor Murphy conditionally vetoed the following bills:

A-850/S-2864 (Chiaravalloti, Karabinchak, Reynolds-Jackson/Oroho, Singleton) – **CONDITIONAL** – Establishes "Broadband Access Study Commission"

[Copy of Statement](#)

A-2116/S-2009 (Tully, Swain, Armato/Lagana) – **CONDITIONAL** – Requires State Treasurer to submit report to Legislature every six months identifying deadlines for applications for federal funds by State

agencies

Copy of Statement