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RWH/CL

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 154, *approved July 5, 2019*  
Assembly Committee Substitute (*First Reprint*) for  
Assembly, Nos. 4430 and 4455

1 AN ACT concerning <sup>1</sup>**[certain]** electric<sup>1</sup> public utility service  
2 discontinuances, and designated as “Linda’s Law,” and  
3 supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

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

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

12 “Electric public utility” or “utility” means a public utility, as that  
13 term is defined in R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric distribution  
14 service.

15 “Emergency” means any condition constituting a potential  
16 danger to life, health, or property requiring an electric public utility  
17 to immediately discontinue or interrupt service or that results in an  
18 unscheduled discontinuance or interruption in electric service.

19 “Medical customer” means a residential electric public utility  
20 customer of record who uses life-sustaining equipment powered by  
21 electricity, as determined by the board, at the customer’s address  
22 and affirmatively responds to a request for information pursuant to  
23 subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
24 the Legislature as this bill).  
25

26 2. a. An electric public utility shall request from every  
27 residential customer, on a semi-annual basis, information,  
28 determined by the board, as to whether the residential customer, or  
29 any person living at the residential customer’s address, uses life-  
30 sustaining equipment powered by electricity at the residential  
31 customer’s address. If a residential customer responds to the  
32 utility’s request for information indicating that the residential  
33 customer or a person living at the residential customer’s address  
34 uses life-sustaining equipment powered by electricity, the utility  
35 shall designate that residential customer as a medical customer.

36 b. <sup>1</sup>**[An electric public utility shall not discontinue service to a**  
37 **medical customer for utility bill nonpayment]** Discontinuance of

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted June 10, 2019.

1 electric service for nonpayment is prohibited for a period of 90  
2 days.<sup>1</sup> if a medical customer's condition would be aggravated by a  
3 discontinuance of electric service. <sup>1</sup>The board may extend the 90-  
4 day period of time in which a discontinuance of electric service is  
5 prohibited for an additional period of time for good cause.<sup>1</sup> The  
6 board <sup>1</sup>shall determine which types of licensed medical  
7 professionals are able to sign a medical certification needed to  
8 avoid the discontinuance of electric service pursuant to this section  
9 and<sup>1</sup> shall establish conditions that shall apply to the prohibition on  
10 a discontinuance of electric service to a medical customer that shall  
11 include, but not be limited to, provisions requiring the medical  
12 customer to:

13 (1) provide reasonable proof of an inability to pay a utility bill  
14 on or before the bill's due date; and

15 (2) <sup>1</sup>~~["semi-annually"]~~<sup>1</sup> submit a written <sup>1</sup>~~["physician's"]~~ licensed  
16 medical professional's<sup>1</sup> statement to the utility, stating:

17 (a) the existence of the medical customer's use of life-sustaining  
18 equipment powered by electricity at the medical customer's  
19 premises and the probable duration of that use;

20 (b) the nature of the condition of the medical customer and its  
21 probable duration, only if the disclosure of the information is not  
22 otherwise prohibited by law; and

23 (c) that the discontinuance of service to the medical customer  
24 will aggravate the condition of the medical customer.

25  
26 3. A medical customer who does not pay in full an electric  
27 public utility bill on or before the date the bill is due shall be liable  
28 for any bill payment balance for service rendered by the utility, in  
29 accordance with a utility's tariff. <sup>1</sup>~~["A utility shall be compensated~~  
30 ~~through rates for revenues lost in association with unpaid customer~~  
31 ~~balances."]~~<sup>1</sup>

32  
33 4. The board shall direct each electric public utility to develop  
34 a customer outreach plan, subject to board approval, that shall  
35 inform customers of the process for qualifying as a medical  
36 customer pursuant to P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
37 Legislature as this bill).

38  
39 5. An electric public utility shall be excused from compliance  
40 with the provisions of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
41 before the Legislature as this bill) in the event of an emergency or  
42 if, despite compliance by the utility with the requirements of section  
43 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
44 bill), the medical customer fails or refuses to respond to a request  
45 for information by the utility pursuant to section 2 of  
46 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

1 <sup>1</sup>6. Notwithstanding any provisions of the "Administrative  
2 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the board  
3 shall, within 180 days after the enactment of P.L. , c. (C. )  
4 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), adopt rules and  
5 regulations implementing the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. )  
6 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The rules and  
7 regulations adopted by the board shall be effective as rules  
8 regulations immediately upon filing with the Office of  
9 Administrative Law and shall be effective for a period not to exceed  
10 24 months, and may, thereafter, be amended, adopted, or readopted  
11 by the board pursuant to the provisions of the "Administrative  
12 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).<sup>1</sup>

13

14 <sup>1</sup>[6.] 7.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect on the 180th day after the  
15 date of enactment <sup>1</sup>, except for section 6 of this act which shall take  
16 effect immediately<sup>1</sup>.

17

18

19

20

21 "Linda's Law"; prohibits electric public utilities from  
22 discontinuing service to customers using life-sustaining equipment  
23 with verification of use of equipment.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4430

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**

**SYNOPSIS**

“Linda’s Law”; prohibits electric public utilities from discontinuing service to customers using life-sustaining equipment with verification of use of equipment.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/28/2018)**

1 AN ACT concerning certain public utility service discontinuances,  
2 and designated as “Linda’s Law,” and supplementing Title 48 of  
3 the Revised Statutes.

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

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

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

12 “Electric public utility” or “utility” means a public utility, as that  
13 term is defined in R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric distribution  
14 service.

15 “Emergency” means any condition constituting a clear and  
16 present danger to life, health, or property requiring a public utility  
17 to immediately discontinue or interrupt service or provide an  
18 unscheduled discontinuance or interruption in service caused by a  
19 sudden natural or man-made disaster or related event.

20 “Medical customer” means a residential utility customer of  
21 record who affirmatively responds to a request for information  
22 pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
23 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

24  
25 2. a. An electric public utility shall request from every  
26 residential customer, on a semi-annual basis, information,  
27 determined by the board, as to whether the residential customer, or  
28 any person living at the residential customer’s address, uses life-  
29 sustaining equipment powered by electricity at the residential  
30 customer’s address. If a residential customer responds to the  
31 utility’s request for information indicating the residential customer  
32 or a person living at the residential customer’s address uses life-  
33 sustaining equipment powered by electricity, the utility shall  
34 designate that residential customer as a medical customer.

35 b. Except when a utility experiences an emergency, a utility  
36 shall not discontinue service to a medical customer for utility bill  
37 nonpayment if a medical customer’s condition would be aggravated  
38 by a discontinuance of electric service. A utility shall require the  
39 medical customer to:

40 (1) provide reasonable proof of an inability to pay a utility bill  
41 on or before the bill’s due date; and

42 (2) semi-annually submit a written physician's statement to the  
43 utility, stating:

44 (a) the existence of the medical customer’s use of life-sustaining  
45 equipment powered by electricity at the medical customer's  
46 premises;

1 (b) the nature of the condition of the medical customer and its  
2 probable duration, only if the disclosure of the information is not  
3 otherwise prohibited by law; and

4 (c) that the discontinuance of service to the medical customer  
5 will aggravate the condition of the medical customer.  
6

7 3. A medical customer who does not pay in full a utility bill on  
8 or before the date the bill is due shall be liable for any bill payment  
9 balance for service rendered by the utility.  
10

11 4. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain  
12 inoperative for 60 days following the date of enactment.  
13

14  
15 STATEMENT  
16

17 This bill is to be known as “Linda’s Law” in memory of Linda  
18 Daniels, who depended on an oxygen machine powered by  
19 electricity to survive, who died after electric service to her home  
20 was discontinued.

21 This bill requires an electric public utility (utility) to request  
22 from every residential customer, on a semi-annual basis,  
23 information determined by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), as  
24 to whether the residential customer, or any person living at the  
25 customer’s residence, uses life-sustaining equipment powered by  
26 electricity at the residential customer's premises. If a residential  
27 customer responds to the utility’s request for information indicating  
28 the residential customer or a person living at the residential  
29 customer’s address uses life-sustaining equipment powered by  
30 electricity, the utility is to designate that residential customer as a  
31 “medical customer.”

32 The bill requires that, except when a utility experiences an  
33 “emergency,” as that term is defined in the bill, a utility is  
34 prohibited from discontinuing service to a medical customer for  
35 utility bill nonpayment if a medical customer’s condition would be  
36 aggravated by a discontinuance of service. A utility shall require  
37 the medical customer to: (1) provide reasonable proof of an  
38 inability to pay a utility bill on or before the bill’s due date; and (2)  
39 semi-annually submit a written physician's statement to the utility,  
40 stating the existence of the medical customer’s use of life-  
41 sustaining equipment powered by electricity at the customer's  
42 premises, the nature of the condition of the medical customer and  
43 its probable duration only if the disclosure of the information is not  
44 otherwise prohibited by law, and that the discontinuance of service  
45 to the medical customer will aggravate the condition of the medical  
46 customer.



**A4430 LOPEZ, PINTOR MARIN**

4

- 1 The bill provides that a medical customer who does not pay in
- 2 full a utility bill on or before the date the bill is due is liable for any
- 3 bill payment balance for service rendered by the utility.

ASSEMBLY TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITIES  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, Nos. 4430 and 4555**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 13, 2019

The Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill Nos. 4430 and 4555.

As substituted and reported, this bill is to be known as “Linda’s Law” in memory of Linda Daniels, who depended on an oxygen machine powered by electricity to survive and died after electric service to her home was discontinued.

This bill requires an electric public utility (utility) to request from every residential customer, on a semi-annual basis, information determined by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), as to whether the residential customer, or any person living at the customer’s residence, uses life-sustaining equipment powered by electricity at the residential customer's premises. If a residential customer responds to the utility’s request for information indicating that the residential customer or a person living at the residential customer’s address uses life-sustaining equipment powered by electricity, the utility is to designate that residential customer as a “medical customer.”

The bill prohibits a utility from discontinuing service to a medical customer for utility bill nonpayment if a medical customer’s condition would be aggravated by a discontinuance of electric service. The BPU is to establish conditions that apply to the prohibition on discontinuance of electric service to a medical customer that are to include, but not be limited to, provisions requiring the medical customer to: 1) provide reasonable proof of an inability to pay a utility bill on or before the bill’s due date; and 2) semi-annually submit a written physician's statement to the utility, stating the existence of the medical customer’s use of life-sustaining equipment powered by electricity at the customer's premises and the probable duration of that use, the nature of the condition of the medical customer and its probable duration only if the disclosure of the information is not otherwise prohibited by law, and that the discontinuance of service to the medical customer will aggravate the condition of the medical customer.

The bill provides that a medical customer who does not pay in full a utility bill on or before the date the bill is due is liable for any bill

payment balance for service rendered by the utility, in accordance with a utility's tariff. A utility is to be compensated through rates for revenues lost in association with unpaid customer balances.

The BPU is to direct each utility to develop a customer outreach plan, subject to BPU approval, that is to inform customers of the process for qualifying as a medical customer. A utility is excused from compliance with the prohibition on discontinuing service to a medical customer in the event of an emergency or if the medical customer fails or refuses to respond to a request for information by the utility.

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
ASSEMBLY, Nos. 4430 and 4555**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senator VITALE)

ADOPTED: JUNE 10, 2019

These floor amendments:

- 1) provide that the discontinuance of electric service to a medical customer for nonpayment is prohibited for a period of 90 days;
- 2) provide that the Board of Public Utilities (board) may extend the 90-day period of time in which a discontinuance of electric service is prohibited for an additional period of time for good cause;
- 3) provide that a licensed medical professional is to submit the statement to an electric public utility (utility) on behalf of a medical customer and that the board is to determine which types of licensed medical professionals are able to sign a medical certification needed to avoid the discontinuance of electric service;
- 4) remove the provision that a utility is to be compensated through rates for revenues lost in association with unpaid customer balances; and
- 5) require the board to adopt rules and regulations implementing the provisions of the bill.

# SENATE, No. 3029

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Singleton**

**SYNOPSIS**

“Linda’s Law”; prohibits electric public utilities from discontinuing service to customers using life-sustaining equipment with verification of use of equipment.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/19/2018)**

1 AN ACT concerning certain public utility service discontinuances,  
2 and designated as “Linda’s Law,” and supplementing Title 48 of  
3 the Revised Statutes.

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

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

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

12 “Electric public utility” or “utility” means a public utility, as that  
13 term is defined in R.S.48:2-13, that provides electric distribution  
14 service.

15 “Emergency” means any condition constituting a clear and  
16 present danger to life, health, or property requiring a public utility  
17 to immediately discontinue or interrupt service or provide an  
18 unscheduled discontinuance or interruption in service caused by a  
19 sudden natural or man-made disaster or related event.

20 “Medical customer” means a residential utility customer of  
21 record who affirmatively responds to a request for information  
22 pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
23 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

24  
25 2. a. An electric public utility shall request from every  
26 residential customer, on a semi-annual basis, information,  
27 determined by the board, as to whether the residential customer, or  
28 any person living at the residential customer’s address, uses life-  
29 sustaining equipment powered by electricity at the residential  
30 customer’s address. If a residential customer responds to the  
31 utility’s request for information indicating the residential customer  
32 or a person living at the residential customer’s address uses life-  
33 sustaining equipment powered by electricity, the utility shall  
34 designate that residential customer as a medical customer.

35 b. Except when a utility experiences an emergency, a utility  
36 shall not discontinue service to a medical customer for utility bill  
37 nonpayment if a medical customer’s condition would be aggravated  
38 by a discontinuance of electric service. A utility shall require the  
39 medical customer to:

40 (1) provide reasonable proof of an inability to pay a utility bill  
41 on or before the bill’s due date; and

42 (2) semi-annually submit a written physician's statement to the  
43 utility, stating:

44 (a) the existence of the medical customer’s use of life-sustaining  
45 equipment powered by electricity at the medical customer's  
46 premises;

1 (b) the nature of the condition of the medical customer and its  
2 probable duration, only if the disclosure of the information is not  
3 otherwise prohibited by law; and

4 (c) that the discontinuance of service to the medical customer  
5 will aggravate the condition of the medical customer.  
6

7 3. A medical customer who does not pay in full a utility bill on  
8 or before the date the bill is due shall be liable for any bill payment  
9 balance for service rendered by the utility.  
10

11 4. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain  
12 inoperative for 60 days following the date of enactment.  
13

14  
15 STATEMENT  
16

17 This bill is to be known as “Linda’s Law” in memory of Linda  
18 Daniels, who depended on an oxygen machine powered by  
19 electricity to survive, who died after electric service to her home  
20 was discontinued.

21 This bill requires an electric public utility (utility) to request  
22 from every residential customer, on a semi-annual basis,  
23 information determined by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), as  
24 to whether the residential customer, or any person living at the  
25 customer’s residence, uses life-sustaining equipment powered by  
26 electricity at the residential customer's premises. If a residential  
27 customer responds to the utility’s request for information indicating  
28 the residential customer or a person living at the residential  
29 customer’s address uses life-sustaining equipment powered by  
30 electricity, the utility is to designate that residential customer as a  
31 “medical customer.”

32 The bill requires that, except when a utility experiences an  
33 “emergency,” as that term is defined in the bill, a utility is  
34 prohibited from discontinuing service to a medical customer for  
35 utility bill nonpayment if a medical customer’s condition would be  
36 aggravated by a discontinuance of service. A utility shall require  
37 the medical customer to: (1) provide reasonable proof of an  
38 inability to pay a utility bill on or before the bill’s due date; and (2)  
39 semi-annually submit a written physician's statement to the utility,  
40 stating the existence of the medical customer’s use of life-  
41 sustaining equipment powered by electricity at the customer's  
42 premises, the nature of the condition of the medical customer and  
43 its probable duration only if the disclosure of the information is not  
44 otherwise prohibited by law, and that the discontinuance of service  
45 to the medical customer will aggravate the condition of the medical  
46 customer.

**S3029 VITALE, CRUZ-PEREZ**

4

- 1 The bill provides that a medical customer who does not pay in
- 2 full a utility bill on or before the date the bill is due is liable for any
- 3 bill payment balance for service rendered by the utility.



# SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 3029

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 24, 2019

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3029.

As reported, this bill is to be known as “Linda’s Law” in memory of Linda Daniels, who depended on an oxygen machine powered by electricity to survive, and who died after electric service to her home was discontinued.

This bill requires an electric public utility (utility) to request from every residential customer, on a semi-annual basis, information determined by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), as to whether the residential customer, or any person living at the customer’s residence, uses life-sustaining equipment powered by electricity at the residential customer's premises. If a residential customer responds to the utility’s request for information indicating the residential customer or a person living at the residential customer’s address uses life-sustaining equipment powered by electricity, the utility is to designate that residential customer as a “medical customer.”

The bill requires that, except when a utility experiences an “emergency,” as that term is defined in the bill, a utility is prohibited from discontinuing service to a medical customer for utility bill nonpayment if a medical customer’s condition would be aggravated by a discontinuance of service. A utility is to require the medical customer to: 1) provide reasonable proof of an inability to pay a utility bill on or before the bill’s due date; and 2) semi-annually submit a written physician's statement to the utility.

The bill provides that a medical customer who does not pay a utility bill on or before the date the bill is due is liable for any bill payment balance for service rendered by the utility.

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 3029**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Senator VITALE)

ADOPTED: JUNE 10, 2019

These floor amendments:

- 1) make changes to the definition of “emergency” and “medical customer”;
- 2) provide that the discontinuance of electric service to a medical customer for nonpayment is prohibited for a period of 90 days;
- 3) provide that the Board of Public Utilities (board) may extend the 90-day period of time in which a discontinuance of electric service is prohibited for an additional period of time for good cause;
- 4) provide that a licensed medical professional is to submit the statement to an electric public utility (utility) on behalf of a medical customer and that the board is to determine which types of licensed medical professionals are able to sign a medical certification needed to avoid the discontinuance of electric service;
- 5) provide that the board is to direct each utility to develop a customer outreach plan, subject to BPU approval, that is to inform customers of the process for qualifying as a medical customer;
- 6) provide that a utility is excused from compliance with the prohibition on discontinuing service to a medical customer in the event of an emergency or if the medical customer fails or refuses to respond to a request for information by the utility; and
- 7) require the board to adopt rules and regulations implementing the provisions of the bill.



## Governor Phil Murphy

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## Newark, N.J.

## Governor Murphy Signs "Linda's Law"

07/5/2019

**TRENTON** – Governor Phil Murphy today signed ACS for A4430 and A4555, also known as "Linda's Law," which will require electric public utility companies to verify with all residential customers whether anyone at the residence uses life-sustaining equipment powered by electricity. The legislation is in response to the death of Linda Daniels, a resident of Newark who lost her life when her oxygen tank lost power after her electricity was shut off.

"No one should fear losing their life because their electricity bill is a few days overdue," **said Governor Murphy**. "Linda's Law will protect residents who rely upon electricity to support their medical equipment."

Linda's Law will prohibit electric public utilities from discontinuing service for 90 days due to nonpayment for medical customers who rely on electric-powered medical equipment to survive. Utilities shall request information as to whether any residential customer qualifies as a medical customer on a semi-annual basis.

"On this anniversary of the tragic death of Linda Daniels, thank you to Governor Murphy and the Legislature for passing Linda's Law," **said New Jersey Board of Public Utilities President Joseph L. Fiordaliso**. "The NJBPU has been working closely with the utilities to implement additional regulations that we hope, along with this legislation, will help prevent future tragedies. Our ongoing condolences to her family."

"One year ago, Linda Daniels lost her life when her electricity was shut off and the oxygen mask that she desperately needed lost power," **said Newark Mayor Ras Baraka**. "For seven hours, in the middle of a heat wave, she gasped for breath. A year later, a family is still mourning the loss of a 68-year-old mother and grandmother, who had much more life to give her family and community. We must continue to keep them in prayer and have trust that Linda's death will not be in vain. Out of this tragic loss, "Linda's Law" will protect and support those that need it the most regardless of their ability to afford it."

"It is clear that more needs to be done to ensure that those depending on electricity for their medical device do not experience a shut-off in their home," **said Assemblymembers Yvonne Lopez, Raj Mukherji, Eliana Pintor Marin, Wayne DeAngelo, James Kennedy, and Lisa Swain**. "We need to ensure that electric public utilities have a comprehensive system to not only track, but also meet the needs of their medically dependent customers. We know that BPU regulations consider temperature as well as other factors prior to ordering a shut-off, however, the health of our most vulnerable populations must also be made a priority factor in determining a discontinuation of service."

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"Being late on your bills should not be life-threatening," **said Senator Joseph Vitale**. "Unfortunately for Linda Daniels, discontinuing power to her home cut off her oxygen. This should never have been acceptable in America, and certainly not in New Jersey. No number of missed utility payments should ever have been lethal and hopefully with this legislation, it will never be again."

"Many people rely on electricity to power life-sustaining medical equipment within their homes," **said Senator**

**Linda Greenstein.** "These individuals must be protected from potential energy shut-offs and must be provided leniency by their energy suppliers. No person's electricity should determine life or death."

"The inability to pay an electric bill should not have deadly consequences, but what happens when power is cut off to someone using life sustaining medical equipment," **said Senator Teresa Ruiz.** "This legislation will expand precautions already in place to ensure power companies are not risking anyone's life when they discontinue services to a customer past due on their bill."

## Governor Phil Murphy

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### Administration

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