

FEB 15 2001
COMMERCE AND REGULATION

HOUSE FILE 211
BY WISE

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to a moratorium on disconnection of electric and
2 gas utility services during certain months, and making certain
3 technical changes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 211

1 Section 1. Section 476.20, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2001,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 2. a. The board shall establish rules requiring a
4 regulated public utility furnishing gas or electricity to
5 include in the utility's notice of pending disconnection of
6 service a written statement advising the customer that the
7 customer may be eligible to participate in the low income home
8 energy assistance program or weatherization assistance program
9 administered by the division of community action agencies of
10 the department of human rights, if the customer meets certain
11 income guidelines.

12 b. The written statement shall ~~list~~ include the following
13 information:

14 (1) The address and telephone number of the local agency
15 which that is administering the customer's low income home
16 energy assistance program and the weatherization assistance
17 program. ~~The-written-statement-shall-also-state~~

18 (2) A statement that the customer is advised to contact
19 the public utility to settle any of the customer's complaints
20 with the public utility, but if a complaint is not settled to
21 the customer's satisfaction, the customer may file the
22 complaint with the board. ~~The-written-statement-shall-include~~
23 the

24 (3) The address and phone number of the board.

25 (4) If the notice of pending disconnection of service
26 applies to a residence, the written statement shall advise
27 that the disconnection does not apply from November 1 through
28 April 1 ~~for-a-resident-who-is-a-"head-of-household",-as~~
29 ~~defined-by-law,-and-who-has-been-certified-to-the-public~~
30 ~~utility-by-the-local-agency-which-is-administering-the-low~~
31 ~~income-home-energy-assistance-program-and-weatherization~~
32 ~~assistance-program-as-being-eligible-for-either-the-low-income~~
33 ~~home-energy-assistance-program-or-weatherization-assistance~~
34 ~~program,-and-that-if-such-a-resident-resides-within-the~~
35 ~~serviced-residence,-the-customer-should-promptly-have-the~~

1 ~~qualifying-resident-notify-the-local-agency-which-is~~
2 ~~administering-the-low-income-home-energy-assistance-program~~
3 ~~and-weatherization-assistance-program.~~

4 c. The board shall establish rules requiring that the
5 written notice contain additional information as it deems
6 necessary and appropriate.

7 3. a. The board shall establish rules ~~which~~ that shall be
8 uniform with respect to all public utilities furnishing gas or
9 electricity relating to disconnection of service. This
10 subsection applies both to regulated utilities and to
11 municipally owned utilities and unincorporated villages ~~which~~
12 that own their own distribution systems, and violations of
13 this subsection subject the utilities to civil penalties under
14 section 476.51.

15 b. A qualified applicant for the low income home energy
16 assistance program or the weatherization assistance program
17 who is also a "head of household", as defined in section
18 422.4, subsection 7, shall be promptly certified by the local
19 agency administering the applicant's program to the
20 applicant's public utility that the resident is a "head of
21 household" as defined in section 422.4, subsection 7, and is
22 qualified for the low income home energy assistance program or
23 weatherization assistance program.

24 c. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a public utility
25 furnishing gas or electricity shall not disconnect service
26 from November 1 through April 1 to a residence ~~which-has-a~~
27 ~~resident-that-has-been-certified-under-this-paragraph.~~

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill eliminates the income guidelines for the
30 moratorium on winter electric and gas utility service
31 disconnection, and prohibits disconnection of such utility
32 service from any residence from November 1 through April 1.

33 The bill also reorganizes the existing language in the
34 subsections into paragraphs and subparagraphs.

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