

2023 -- H 5661

LC002102

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Introduced By: Representatives Cruz, Boylan, Shekarchi, Potter, McNamara, Tanzi,  
Kislak, Hull, Biah, and DeSimone

Date Introduced: February 17, 2023

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 39-1 of the General Laws entitled "Public Utilities Commission" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **39-1-63. Utility termination moratorium period.**

4 (a) A public utility shall not terminate service to any property, which is being used as a  
5 public warming center, drop-in center, shelter, or similar facility that is providing emergency  
6 services to drop-in residents or unhoused individuals during a utility termination moratorium  
7 period, which shall be from November 1 to April 15 of the following year. This section shall apply  
8 regardless of whether the warming center, drop-in center, shelter, or similar facility that is providing  
9 emergency services to drop-in residents or unhoused individuals is eligible for termination pursuant  
10 to regulation 810-RICR-10-00-1 as promulgated and adopted by the Rhode Island public utilities  
11 commission (the "commission").

12 (b) The commission shall amend its rules and regulations governing the termination of  
13 residential electric and gas service as set forth in 810-RICR-10-00-1, and any similar rule or  
14 regulation of the commission, to incorporate the provisions of this section into its rules and  
15 regulation(s).

16 (c) This section shall not nullify or reduce any extension of the suspension of service  
17 terminations and collection actions during the COVID-19 emergency already authorized or which  
18 may be authorized by the commission pursuant to "Docket No. 5022 - Suspension of Service  
19 Terminations and Certain Collections Activities During the COVID-19 Emergency."

1           (d) Any property which is being used as a public warming center, drop-in center, shelter,  
2 or similar facility that is providing emergency services to drop-in residents or unhoused individuals  
3 shall register with the electric distribution company and/or public utilities serving gas or water  
4 service so that the public utility has a record of the account(s) exempt from service termination  
5 during the upcoming November 1 to April 15 period.

6           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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1           This act would provide that utility services would not be terminated for the period from  
2 November 1 to April 15 to any property which is being used as a warming center, drop-in center,  
3 shelter, or similar facility that is providing emergency services to drop-in residents or unhoused  
4 individuals.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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