

2018 -- H 8060

=====
LC005270
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

—————
A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND
CARRIERS

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Craven, Shanley, Regunberg, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: April 05, 2018

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 **39-2-26. Utility bill credit for multiple outages.**

4 (a) Any electric distribution company regulated pursuant to this title shall provide a
5 customer credit on the customer's next bill following any eligible outage as reimbursement for the
6 loss or interruption of service when the loss of service occurs for a consecutive twenty-four (24)
7 hour period and amounts to an aggregate period of one hundred sixty-eight (168) hours or more
8 during any thirty (30) day period without the utility service. The amount of the credit provided to
9 a residential customer shall be the amount of a customer's minimum bill prorated daily on a
10 twenty-four (24) hour basis and which twenty-four (24) hour prorated amount shall determine the
11 credit provided for each twenty-four (24) hour period without utility service.

12 (b) Electric distributions companies shall be prohibited from recovering the cost of
13 issuing credits pursuant to this section by way of any surcharge including, but not limited to, any
14 rider, adjustment clause and/or recovery mechanism, added to any customers bill in an effort to
15 recover funds expended on utility bill credits.

16 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply if the loss of electrical power was caused
17 by the action or inaction of the residential customer, or if the electrical power to the residence was
18 terminated by the customer or the electric transmission company.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 39-19 of the General Laws entitled "Community Antenna
2 Television Systems" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **39-19-15. Utility bill credit for multiple outages.**

4 (a) Any community antenna television system (CATV) regulated pursuant this title shall
5 provide a customer credit on the customer's next bill following any eligible outage as
6 reimbursement for the loss or interruption of service when the loss of service occurs for a
7 consecutive twenty-four (24) hour period and amounts to an aggregate period of one hundred
8 sixty-eight (168) hours or more during any thirty (30) day period within the utility service. The
9 amount of the credit provided to a residential customer shall be the amount of a customer's
10 minimum bill prorated daily on a twenty-four (24) hour basis and which twenty-four (24) hour
11 prorated amount shall determine the credit provided for each twenty-four (24) hour period
12 without utility service.

13 (b) Community antenna television system (CATV) companies shall be prohibited from
14 recovering the cost of issuing credits pursuant to this section by way of any surcharge including,
15 but not limited to, any rider, adjustment clause and/or recovery mechanism, added to any
16 customers bill in an effort to recover funds expended on utility bill credits issued pursuant to this
17 section.

18 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply if the loss of cable television service was
19 caused by the action or inaction of the residential customer, or if the cable television service to
20 the residence was terminated by the customer or the cable television transmission company.

21 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====
LC005270
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND
CARRIERS

1 This act would require the issuance of utility bill credits to customers of electrical or
2 cable television providers when the customer's service is interrupted for a period of one hundred
3 sixty-eight (168) hours within a thirty (30) day period.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

=====
LC005270
=====