

ASSEMBLY, No. 234

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Peterson

SYNOPSIS

Requires telephone utility to temporarily suspend local exchange telephone service for up to six continuous months when requested by residential customer; allows customer to keep telephone number when resuming service.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



A234 DEANGELO

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1 **AN ACT** concerning the temporary suspension of local exchange
2 telephone service to residential customers and supplementing
3 Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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 “Local exchange telephone service” or “service” means
13 telephone service provided by a telecommunications carrier
14 providing dial tone service and access to 51 percent or more of a
15 local telephone exchange.

16 “Residential customer” or “customer” means a customer
17 receiving local exchange telephone service from a telephone public
18 utility under a rate classification deemed by the board as residential.

19 "Telephone public utility" means a public utility, as that term is
20 defined in R.S.48:2-13, that provides local exchange telephone
21 service to residential customers in this State.

2. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, regulation, or order to the contrary, a telephone public utility shall, at the written request of a residential customer, temporarily suspend that customer's local exchange telephone service, for a period up to six months. Upon resuming service, the customer may elect to keep the same telephone number assigned to the customer prior to the service suspension.

b. A telephone public utility shall not charge a residential customer any rate or fee during the service suspension period.

33 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but remain
34 inoperative for 60 days following the date of enactment.

37 STATEMENT

39 This bill requires a telephone public utility (telephone utility), at
40 the request of a residential customer, to temporarily suspend local
41 exchange telephone service. The temporary service suspension may
42 be for any period up to six months as requested by the residential
43 customer. The Board of Public Utilities is to require a telephone
44 utility to provide for the allowed temporary service suspension, that
45 a rate or fee shall not be chargeable to a residential customer during
46 the service suspension period, and that the customer may be able to
47 keep the same telephone number assigned to the customer prior to
48 the service suspension upon resuming service.