

ASSEMBLY, No. 312

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblyman Verrelli, Assemblywomen McKnight, Mosquera, Downey
and Timberlake**

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits public utility from terminating service for nonpayment unless customer is provided certified letter at least 10 business days prior to scheduled termination date.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/20/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning termination of public utility service and
2 amending R.S.48:2-24.

3

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

6

7 1. R.S.48:2-24 is amended to read as follows:

8 48:2-24. a. No public utility shall discontinue, curtail, or
9 abandon any service without obtaining permission from the board
10 after notice. The board may withhold permission until after hearing
11 to determine if the discontinuance, curtailment, or abandonment
12 will adversely affect public convenience and necessity. With
13 respect to common carriers, the provisions of this **[paragraph]**
14 subsection shall apply only to service operated in accordance with
15 base schedules on file with the board; provided, however, that the
16 **[State Highway] Commissioner of Transportation** upon entering
17 into a contract for passenger service pursuant to **[chapter 66 of the**
18 **laws of 1960, as amended and supplemented,]** P.L.1962, c.191
19 (C.48:12A-17 et seq.) may, without approval of the board, authorize
20 a discontinuance, curtailment, abandonment, or change in passenger
21 service, which discontinuance, curtailment, abandonment, or change
22 in service shall exist only during the term of **[said]** the contract.

23 b. (1) A public utility may terminate service for a violation of
24 the terms of its approved tariffs on file with the **[Board of Public**
25 **Utility Commissioners]** board upon giving the customer at least 3
26 days' notice of **[such]** the termination unless otherwise provided for
27 by rules, regulations, or orders of the board, except that in those
28 situations where a hazardous condition prevails the public utility
29 may terminate service without notice.

30 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this
31 subsection, a public utility shall not terminate the service of a
32 customer for nonpayment unless the public utility provides the
33 customer a certified letter no less than 10 business days prior to the
34 scheduled termination date notifying the customer that the
35 customer's service will be terminated for nonpayment on the
36 scheduled termination date.

37 c. If any public utility shall discontinue, curtail, or abandon
38 service, and the board after hearing upon notice shall find and
39 determine that service should be resumed, the board may order that
40 service be resumed forthwith or on **[such]** a date as it may fix.

41 (cf: P.L.1964, c.58, s.1)

42

43 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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.

1 STATEMENT

2

3 This bill amends current law to provide that a public utility is not
4 to terminate a customer's utility service for nonpayment unless the
5 public utility provides the customer a certified letter no less than 10
6 business days prior to the scheduled termination date notifying the
7 customer that the customer's utility service will be terminated for
8 nonpayment on the scheduled termination date.