

SENATE, No. 507

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires public utilities to set bill due date to no earlier than 28 days past postmarked date if mailed by regular mail or 28 days past sent date if sent electronically.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning public utility bills and amending
2 P.L.2003, c.247.

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

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2003, c.247 (C.48:3-2.3) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule,
10 regulation, or order to the contrary, the board shall not allow a
11 utility to:

12 (1) establish as the date on which payment is due on an unpaid
13 bill a day that is earlier than 28 days after either the postmark date
14 of the bill when sent by regular mail or the sent date of the bill
15 when sent electronically; or

16 (2) assess a late payment charge on an unpaid bill unless the
17 charge is provided for in the utility's applicable rate schedule
18 approved by the board. A late payment charge shall not be
19 approved by the board if the charge is applicable to bills less than
20 25 days after rendering. A late payment charge shall not be
21 approved for a rate schedule applicable to a State, county, or
22 municipal government entity or any residential ratepayer.

23 As used in this subsection, a "utility" means a public utility, as
24 public utility is defined in R.S.48:2-13 and including a natural gas
25 pipeline utility as natural gas pipeline utility is defined in section 2
26 of P.L.1952, c.166 (C.48:10-3), and a municipally-operated utility,
27 insofar as the board's jurisdiction is extended to the municipally-
28 operated utility under any applicable law. "Utility" shall not mean a
29 local exchange telecommunications company or interexchange
30 telecommunications carrier providing a competitive service as
31 determined by the board pursuant to section 4 of
32 P.L.1991, c.428 (C.48:2-21.19).

33 b. The board may adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative
34 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and
35 regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of subsection a. of
36 this section.

37 (cf: P.L.2013, c.181, s.2)

38
39 2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after the date of
40 enactment, but the Board of Public Utilities may take such
41 anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be
42 necessary for the implementation of this act.

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45 STATEMENT

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47 This bill provides that the Board of Public Utilities ("board")
48 shall not allow a public utility to establish, as the date on which

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.

S507 VITALE, RICE

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- 1 payment is due on an unpaid bill, a day that is earlier than 28 days
- 2 after either: 1) the postmark date of the bill when sent by regular
- 3 mail; or 2) the sent date of the bill when sent electronically.