

STATE OF NEW YORK

9706

IN ASSEMBLY

March 28, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. PAULIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Energy

AN ACT to amend the public service law, the general business law and the public authorities law, in relation to requiring utility service providers to disclose planned rate increases to consumers within a certain amount of time

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The public service law is amended by adding a new section
2 28 to read as follows:

3 § 28. Notice of planned rate increase for services. 1. Any gas corpo-
4 ration, electric corporation, water corporation or municipality, steam
5 corporation or telephone corporation shall be required to disclose to a
6 consumer any planned rate increase for services being rendered to such
7 consumer, within thirty but no less than seven days before such planned
8 rate increase takes effect.

9 2. (a) Any notification of a planned rate increase pursuant to this
10 section shall be communicated to the consumer in a clear and conspicuous
11 method which is sufficient to alert such consumer that such planned rate
12 increase is occurring.

13 (b) A consumer shall be notified in a separate communication outside
14 of any billing statement via phone, electronic mail, letter, text
15 message or any combination thereof that includes the following statement
16 "This is a notification of a planned rate increase for the services
17 currently being rendered". Inclusion of such notification as part of
18 any billing statement shall not constitute compliance with this section.

19 3. Any gas corporation, electric corporation, water corporation or
20 municipality, steam corporation or telephone corporation shall provide
21 with any notification of a planned rate increase information on how a
22 consumer can contact the service provider and shall also include a mech-
23 anism to allow for a consumer to cancel their service altogether.

24 § 2. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 399-
25 yyyy to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD07224-04-1

1 § 399-yyy. Notice of planned rate increases for cable and internet
2 services. 1. Any cable television company or internet service provider
3 shall be required to disclose to a consumer any planned rate increase
4 for services being rendered to such consumer, within thirty but no less
5 than seven days before such planned rate increase takes effect.

6 2. (a) Any notification of a planned rate increase pursuant to this
7 section shall be communicated to the consumer in a clear and conspicuous
8 method which is sufficient to alert such consumer that such planned rate
9 increase is occurring.

10 (b) A consumer shall be notified in a separate communication outside
11 of any billing statement via phone, electronic mail, letter, text
12 message or any combination thereof that includes the following statement
13 "This is a notification of a planned rate increase for the services
14 currently being rendered". Inclusion of such notification as part of any
15 billing statement shall not constitute compliance with this section.

16 3. Any cable television company or internet service provider shall
17 provide with any notification of a planned rate increase information on
18 how a consumer can contact the service provider and shall also include a
19 mechanism to allow for a consumer to cancel their service altogether.

20 § 3. Section 1020-cc of the public authorities law is amended by
21 adding a new subdivision 3 to read as follows:

22 3. Service providers shall be subject to the provisions of section
23 twenty-eight of the public service law.

24 § 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
25 it shall have become a law.