

3639

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 27, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to requiring utility, telephone and cable companies to provide large-print versions of billing statements and notices upon request by the consumer

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 44 of the public service law is amended by adding a
2 new subdivision 5 to read as follows:

3 5. AT THE TIME SERVICE IS INITIATED TO A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER AND AT
4 LEAST ONCE A YEAR THEREAFTER, EVERY UTILITY CORPORATION OR MUNICIPALITY
5 SHALL PROVIDE ITS CUSTOMERS WITH A LARGE PRINT NOTICE THAT BILLING
6 STATEMENTS AND NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT FORMAT. UPON WRITTEN
7 REQUEST BY A CUSTOMER, A UTILITY CORPORATION OR MUNICIPALITY SHALL
8 PROVIDE THE CUSTOMER'S BILLING STATEMENTS AND NOTICES IN THE LARGE PRINT
9 FORMAT COMMENCING NO LATER THAN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE UPON WHICH THE
10 REQUEST IS RECEIVED BY THE UTILITY CORPORATION OR MUNICIPALITY. IF A
11 RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER RECEIVES RESIDENTIAL GAS OR ELECTRIC SERVICE FROM
12 TWO OR MORE UTILITIES, THE RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER NEED NOT BE NOTIFIED BY
13 EACH SUCH UTILITY; THE UTILITY DISTRIBUTING THE CUSTOMER'S ENERGY SHALL
14 PROVIDE A SINGLE ANNUAL NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS. THE PROVISIONS
15 OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL APPLY TO BOTH WRITTEN AND ELECTRONIC BILLING
16 STATEMENTS AND NOTICES. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION "LARGE PRINT"
17 MEANS A PRINTED OR ELECTRONIC FONT SIZE OF EIGHTEEN TO ILLUMINATE BILL-
18 ING INFORMATION.

19 S 2. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 92-g to
20 read as follows:

21 S 92-G. TELEPHONE BILLS; INFORMATIONAL NOTICES. AT THE TIME SERVICE IS
22 INITIATED TO A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER AND AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR THEREAFTER,
23 EVERY TELEPHONE CORPORATION SHALL PROVIDE ITS CUSTOMERS WITH A LARGE
24 PRINT NOTICE THAT BILLING STATEMENTS AND NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE IN A

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

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1 LARGE PRINT FORMAT. UPON WRITTEN REQUEST BY A CUSTOMER, A TELEPHONE
2 CORPORATION SHALL PROVIDE THE CUSTOMER'S BILLING STATEMENTS AND NOTICES
3 IN LARGE PRINT FORMAT NO LATER THAN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE UPON WHICH
4 THE REQUEST IS RECEIVED BY THE TELEPHONE CORPORATION. THE PROVISIONS OF
5 THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO BOTH WRITTEN AND ELECTRONIC STATEMENTS AND
6 NOTICES. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "LARGE PRINT" MEANS A PRINTED
7 OR ELECTRONIC FONT SIZE OF EIGHTEEN TO ILLUMINATE BILLING INFORMATION.

8 S 3. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 92-h to
9 read as follows:

10 S 92-H. CABLE BILLS; INFORMATIONAL NOTICES. AT THE TIME SERVICE IS
11 INITIATED TO A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER AND AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR THEREAFTER,
12 EVERY CORPORATION PROVIDING CABLE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE ITS CUSTOMERS
13 WITH A LARGE PRINT NOTICE THAT BILLING STATEMENTS AND NOTICES ARE AVAIL-
14 ABLE IN A LARGE PRINT FORMAT. UPON WRITTEN REQUEST BY A CUSTOMER, A
15 CORPORATION PROVIDING CABLE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE THE CUSTOMER'S BILL-
16 ING STATEMENTS AND NOTICES IN LARGE PRINT FORMAT NO LATER THAN SIXTY
17 DAYS AFTER THE DATE UPON WHICH THE REQUEST IS RECEIVED BY THE CORPO-
18 RATION. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO BOTH WRITTEN AND
19 ELECTRONIC STATEMENTS AND NOTICES. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "LARGE
20 PRINT" MEANS A PRINTED OR ELECTRONIC FONT SIZE OF EIGHTEEN TO ILLUMINATE
21 BILLING INFORMATION.

22 S 4. This act shall take effect January 1, 2010; provided, however
23 that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any
24 rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its
25 effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on
26 or before such effective date.