S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

4192--B

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 16, 2009

Introduced by Sen. ADDABBO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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

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

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

5. AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR, EVERY UTILITY CORPORATION, ENERGY SERVICES COMPANY OR MUNICIPALITY SHALL PROVIDE ITS CUSTOMERS WITH A NOTICE THAT BILLING STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT FORMAT. UPON WRITTEN REQUEST BY A CUSTOMER, A UTILITY CORPORATION, ENERGY SERVICES COMPANY OR MUNICIPALITY SHALL PROVIDE THE CUSTOMER'S BILLING STATEMENTS IN THE LARGE PRINT FORMAT COMMENCING NO LATER THAN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE UPON WHICH THE REQUEST IS RECEIVED BY THE UTILITY CORPORATION, ENERGY SERVICES COMPANY OR MUNICIPALITY. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL APPLY ONLY TO PRINTED STATEMENTS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "LARGE PRINT" SHALL MEAN A PRINTED FONT SIZE OF SIXTEEN OR GREATER TO ILLUMINATE BILLING INFORMATION. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "ENERGY SERVICES COMPANY" OR "ESCO" SHALL MEAN AN ENTITY ELIGIBLE TO SELL ENERGY SERVICES TO END-USE CUSTOMERS USING THE TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OF A UTILITY CORPORATION.

S 2. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 399-zz to read as follows:

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

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S 399-ZZ. TELEPHONE BILLS. AT THE TIME SERVICE IS INITIATED TO A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER AND AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR THEREAFTER, EVERY TELEPHONE CORPORATION, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION SEVENTEEN OF SECTION TWO OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE LAW, AND EVERY CABLE TELEVISION COMPANY, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED TWELVE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE LAW THAT PROVIDES TELEPHONE SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS IN NEW YORK SHALL PROVIDE ITS CUSTOMERS WITH A NOTICE THAT BILLING STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN A LARGE PRINT FORMAT. UPON WRITTEN REQUEST BY A CUSTOMER, EVERY TELEPHONE CORPORATION AND CABLE TELEVISION COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE THE CUSTOMER'S BILLING STATEMENTS IN LARGE PRINT FORMAT NO LATER THAN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE UPON WHICH THE REQUEST IS RECEIVED BY THE TELEPHONE CORPORATION AND CABLE TELEVISION COMPANY. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY ONLY TO PRINTED STATEMENTS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "LARGE PRINT" MEANS A FONT SIZE OF SIXTEEN OR LARGER TO ILLUMINATE BILLING INFORMATION.

S 3. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 224-b to read as follows:

S 224-B. CABLE BILLS. AT THE TIME SERVICE IS INITIATED TO A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER AND AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR THEREAFTER, EVERY TELEPHONE CORPORATION, AS DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION SEVENTEEN OF SECTION TWO OF THIS CHAPTER, AND EVERY CABLE TELEVISION COMPANY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION TWO HUNDRED TWELVE OF THIS ARTICLE THAT PROVIDES CABLE SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS IN NEW YORK SHALL PROVIDE ITS CUSTOMERS WITH A NOTICE THAT BILLING STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN A LARGE PRINT FORMAT. UPON WRITTEN REQUEST BY A CUSTOMER, EVERY TELEPHONE CORPORATION AND CABLE TELEVISION COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE THE CUSTOMER'S BILLING STATEMENTS IN LARGE PRINT FORMAT NO LATER THAN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE UPON WHICH THE REQUEST IS RECEIVED BY THE TELEPHONE CORPORATION AND CABLE TELEVISION COMPANY. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY ONLY TO PRINTED STATEMENTS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "LARGE PRINT" MEANS A FONT SIZE OF SIXTEEN OR LARGER TO ILLUMINATE BILLING INFORMATION.

S 4. This act shall take effect April 1, 2010; provided, however that this act shall not apply to any utility corporation, energy service company, municipality, telephone corporation or cable television company that services less than fifty thousand customers in the state until November 1, 2010; provided, further that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.