

1780--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

January 14, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. ESPAILLAT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- recommitted to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to making gas and electric billing information for residential rental premises available upon request

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     66-o to read as follows:  
3     S 66-O. GAS AND ELECTRIC BILLING INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL  
4     PREMISES. EVERY GAS CORPORATION, ELECTRIC CORPORATION AND MUNICIPALITY  
5     SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE TO ANY LANDLORD OR LESSOR OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL  
6     PREMISES, WITHIN TEN DAYS OF RECEIPT OF A WRITTEN OR INTERNET REQUEST  
7     THEREFOR FROM ANY PROSPECTIVE TENANT OR LESSEE THEREOF, PRIOR TO THE  
8     COMMENCEMENT OF TENANCY OR EXECUTION OF A LEASE, INFORMATION CONSISTING  
9     OF THE AVERAGE MONTHLY CHARGES INCURRED AT SUCH PREMISES FOR GAS OR  
10    ELECTRIC SERVICE OR BOTH FOR THE LIFE OF THE DWELLING UNIT OR THE  
11    PRECEDING TWO YEAR PERIOD, WHICHEVER IS SHORTER. THE LETTER BY THE  
12    PROSPECTIVE TENANT OR LESSEE SHALL INCLUDE THEIR NAME, ADDRESS, DRIVER'S  
13    LICENSE NUMBER OR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION  
14    NUMBER OR NON-DRIVER ID CARD OR ANY OFFICIAL DOCUMENTED OR UNDOCUMENTED  
15    IMMIGRATION IDENTIFICATION, SIGNATURE, AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS BILLING  
16    INFORMATION REQUESTED MAY ONLY BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING  
17    PRIOR GAS AND ELECTRIC USAGE AS A FACTOR IN DECIDING TO OCCUPY THE  
18    DWELLING UNIT. EACH PROSPECTIVE TENANT OR LESSEE IS LIMITED TO A TOTAL  
19    OF FIVE REQUESTS IN A CALENDAR YEAR WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW YORK. SUCH  
20    INFORMATION SHALL BE IDENTIFIED SOLELY BY THE ADDRESS OF THE DWELLING

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

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1 UNIT, AND NO OTHER INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THE OWNER, LESSEE, OR OTHER  
2 OCCUPANT OF THE DWELLING UNIT SHALL BE UTILIZED FOR, OR MADE AVAILABLE  
3 IN CONNECTION WITH, THE FURNISHING OF BILLING INFORMATION PURSUANT TO  
4 THIS SECTION. SUCH INFORMATION SHALL BE FURNISHED TO BOTH THE LANDLORD  
5 OR LESSOR AND TO THE PROSPECTIVE TENANT OR LESSEE WITH AN IMPOSITION OF  
6 A FIVE DOLLAR CHARGE TO THE PROSPECTIVE TENANT OR LESSEE REQUESTING THE  
7 BILLING INFORMATION PAYABLE TO THE GAS CORPORATION, ELECTRIC CORPORATION  
8 AND MUNICIPALITY PROVIDING SUCH INFORMATION.

9 S 2. The public service commission is directed to: (a) create a proc-  
10 ess whereby a prospective tenant or lessee may obtain by written request  
11 or by the internet to the gas corporation, electric corporation and  
12 municipality the average monthly electric and gas charges for the life  
13 of the dwelling unit or the preceding two year period, whichever is  
14 shorter, prior to the commencement of tenancy or execution of a lease  
15 while maintaining the privacy of the current tenant or lessor; (b)  
16 ensure the request is made only for the purpose of deciding whether to  
17 occupy a dwelling unit; and (c) determine the cost of providing the  
18 information by the utility and assess a fee to the prospective tenant or  
19 lessee requesting the information payable to the gas corporation, elec-  
20 tric corporation and municipality providing the information.

21 S 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
22 it shall have become a law; provided that the public service commission  
23 is authorized to promulgate any and all rules and regulations and take  
24 any other measures necessary to implement this act on its effective date  
25 on or before such date.