

STATE OF NEW YORK

1751

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 10, 2017

Introduced by Sen. ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to a rate classification for volunteer emergency response organizations

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. Volunteer emergency
2 response organizations provide a public benefit to the state of New York
3 and lessen the burdens of government. Further, members of these not-for-
4 profit organizations risk their lives to ensure the safety, health and
5 general welfare of our citizens. In the past, the state of New York
6 recognized the value of similar organizations and the sacrifices of
7 their members when it established a reduced utility rate for veterans'
8 organizations. Therefore, the legislature hereby finds and declares that
9 volunteer emergency response organizations and veterans' organizations
10 are similarly situated in their structures, practices and actions, and
11 further finds and declares that a reduced utility rate is justified for
12 volunteer emergency response organizations to help ensure their contin-
13 ued operation.

14 § 2. Subdivision 14 of section 66 of the public service law, as
15 amended by chapter 696 of the laws of 1936, is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 14. (a) The commission shall have power to require each gas corpo-
18 ration and electric corporation to establish classifications of service
19 based upon the quantity used, the time when used, the purpose for which
20 used, the duration of use and upon any other reasonable consideration,
21 and to establish in connection therewith just and reasonable graduated
22 rates and charges; and it shall have power, either upon complaint or
23 upon its own motion, to require such changes in such classifications,
24 rates and charges as it shall determine to be just and reasonable.

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

LBD07624-01-7

1 Neither the scheduled rates nor the minimum charge for residential
2 customers shall, after July first, nineteen hundred thirty-seven, be
3 based in any manner on the number of outlets, number of rooms, cubic or
4 square foot area or other such standards.

5 (b) In accordance with paragraph (a) of this subdivision, the commis-
6 sion shall require each gas corporation and electric corporation to
7 establish by January first, two thousand nineteen a classification of
8 service for volunteer emergency response organizations in which the rate
9 for any gas or electric service utilized exclusively in connection with
10 such volunteer emergency response organization shall be no greater than
11 the rate charged to veterans' organizations pursuant to section seven-
12 ty-six of this article that are located within the same village, town or
13 municipality. For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "volunteer
14 emergency response organization" shall mean a volunteer fire company
15 and/or a voluntary ambulance service as such terms are defined in
16 section one hundred of the general municipal law.

17 § 3. Subdivision 28 of section 66 of the public service law, as added
18 by chapter 82 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

19 28. (a) No revenues foregone by an electric corporation, as a result
20 of subjecting certain veterans' organizations with rates or charges
21 applicable to domestic consumers pursuant to section seventy-six of this
22 article, shall be recovered from the customers of such corporation.

23 (b) No revenues foregone by a gas corporation or an electric corpo-
24 ration, as a result of the establishment of a classification of service
25 for volunteer emergency response organizations pursuant to subdivision
26 fourteen of this section, shall be recovered from the customers of such
27 corporation.

28 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.