STATE OF NEW YORK

2464--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. DINOWITZ, GOTTFRIED, GALEF, D. ROSENTHAL, ZEBROWSKI, ABINANTI, RAMOS, SIMON, REYES, DICKENS, SOLAGES, LAVINE, FAHY, CYMBROWITZ, GRIFFIN, THIELE, BARRON, EICHENSTEIN, ENGLEBRIGHT, OTIS, SEAWRIGHT, ROZIC, FRONTUS, MONTESANO, DeSTEFANO, McDONOUGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to customers with life-saving equipment during a service disruption

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

Section 1. 1. Definitions. For purposes of this section:

"customer with life-saving equipment" shall have the same meaning as a person living in a residence that uses a life support system as defined in subdivision 12 of section 65 of the public service law.

2. a. The public service commission shall commence a rulemaking proceeding to set minimum requirements regarding customers with life-saving equipment. Such rulemaking proceeding shall establish a plan that, in the event of an electric service disruption, requires electric corporations to:

i. provide backup generators capable of powering life-saving equipment to customers with life-saving equipment, including refueling or recharging services; or

ii. provide temporary lodging accommodations at a location capable of powering life-saving equipment, including but not limited to compensation for hotel rooms or hospital admissions, based on the duration of the electric service disruption to customers with life-saving equipment; and

iii. prioritize electric service restoration to customers with life-saving equipment.

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

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b. Upon adoption by the commission, each electric corporation shall incorporate the established minimum requirements into its emergency response plan pursuant to subdivision 21 of section 66 of the public service law and shall inform its customers of such information via posts on its website, e-mail and bill inserts.

§ 2. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 65-c to read as follows:

§ 65-c. Customers with life-saving equipment. 1. Definitions. For purposes of this section:

"customer with life-saving equipment" shall have the same meaning as a person living in a residence that uses a life support system as defined in subdivision twelve of section sixty-five of this article.

2. Customers with life-saving equipment. (a) Electric corporations shall establish a unique priority phone number that shall remain in operation every day of the year for customers with life-saving equipment.

(b)Information regarding such phone number shall be provided in bill inserts, via e-mail, and posted on electric corporations' websites and shall include reminders for existing customers with life-saving equipment to call such number to ensure they are still registered with the electric corporation as a customer with life-saving equipment.

(c) Customers with life-saving equipment shall be able to call such number established by paragraph (a) of this subdivision at any time, including a time preceding or during an electric service disruption to:

i. register with an electric corporation so as to be placed on its current list of customers who use life support systems pursuant to subdivision twelve of section sixty-five of this article;

ii. receive information or projections regarding the severity of a storm, storm-like electric emergency or system emergency, if applicable;

iii. report an outage or receive instructions on how to report an outage;

iv. receive updated information regarding the estimated time of restoration, including website links to outage maps updated every thirty minutes, if applicable;

v. receive outage safety precautions, including but not limited to: storm survival without electric power, safety precautions regarding electrical hazards such as downed wires and the use of portable generators;

vi. receive information regarding dry ice distribution, if applicable;

vii. receive information regarding power charging locations, if applicable;

viii. receive information regarding cooling locations, if applicable;

ix. receive information regarding the claims process for spoiled food and medication, if applicable;

x. receive potential information adopted pursuant to a rulemaking proceeding commenced by the commission regarding restoration prioritization, backup generators, or compensation for lodging in the event of an electric service disruption for customers with life-saving equipment, if applicable; and

xi. receive information regarding the facilitation of transportation to the nearest hospital or facility that is capable of powering life-saving equipment, if applicable.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.