

STATE OF NEW YORK

3297

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 28, 2021

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- 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 the establishment of reduced residential rates for electric and natural gas service to furloughed or non-pay federal workers; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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-q to read as follows:

3 § 66-q. Reduced residential rates for electric and natural gas service
4 to furloughed or non-pay federal customers. 1. The commission shall
5 require electric and natural gas corporations to establish programs of
6 rate reduction and other assistance to residential electric and natural
7 gas customers who have been either furloughed or designated non-pay
8 federal employees due to a period of a lapse in discretionary appropri-
9 ations by the federal government, the revenue impact of which shall not
10 be borne solely by any single class of customer. The commission shall
11 ensure appropriate levels of rate reduction for such electric and
12 natural gas customers to mitigate hardship. In establishing the appro-
13 prate percentage reduction the commission shall ensure to the extent
14 feasible that ratepayers who have been furloughed or designated non-pay
15 federal employees are not jeopardized or overburdened by rates for elec-
16 tric and natural gas service.

17 2. The commission shall establish customer income and categorical
18 eligibility standards for reduced rates, which shall include, without
19 limitation, customers providing documentation demonstrating that they
20 have been furloughed or designated non-pay as a result of a period of a
21 lapse in discretionary appropriations by the federal government.

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

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1 3. The commission shall require providers of electric and natural gas
2 service to provide information and application forms for reduced rates
3 to eligible customers on their websites, at their offices, and by other
4 means, and to provide information regarding the availability and eligi-
5 bility standards for reduced rates to residential customers at the time
6 of service initiation, in bill inserts, in communications with customers
7 in arrears, and by other means required or approved by the commission.

8 4. The commission shall require electric and natural gas corporations
9 to establish reduced rates pursuant to this section to be effective no
10 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section, and to
11 file periodic reports regarding the number of eligible customers receiv-
12 ing reduced rates, utility efforts to provide reduced residential rates
13 to all customers eligible for them, and other information deemed neces-
14 sary or appropriate by the commission for the efficient administration
15 of the reduced rates.

16 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be
17 deemed repealed one year after it shall have become a law.