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:

Section 1. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 66-q to read as follows:

§ 66-q. Reduced residential rates for electric and natural gas service to furloughed or non-pay federal customers. 1. The commission shall require electric and natural gas corporations to establish programs of rate reduction and other assistance to residential electric and natural gas customers who have been either furloughed or designated non-pay federal employees due to a period of a lapse in discretionary appropriations by the federal government, the revenue impact of which shall not be borne solely by any single class of customer. The commission shall ensure appropriate levels of rate reduction for such electric and natural gas customers to mitigate hardship. In establishing the appropriate percentage reduction the commission shall ensure to the extent feasible that ratepayers who have been furloughed or designated non-pay federal employees are not jeopardized or overburdened by rates for electric and natural gas service.

2. The commission shall establish customer income and categorical eligibility standards for reduced rates, which shall include, without limitation, customers providing documentation demonstrating that they have been furloughed or designated non-pay as a result of a period of a 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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3. The commission shall require providers of electric and natural gas service to provide information and application forms for reduced rates to eligible customers on their websites, at their offices, and by other means, and to provide information regarding the availability and eligibility standards for reduced rates to residential customers at the time of service initiation, in bill inserts, in communications with customers in arrears, and by other means required or approved by the commission.

4. The commission shall require electric and natural gas corporations to establish reduced rates pursuant to this section to be effective no later than thirty days after the effective date of this section, and to file periodic reports regarding the number of eligible customers receiving reduced rates, utility efforts to provide reduced residential rates to all customers eligible for them, and other information deemed necessary or appropriate by the commission for the efficient administration of the reduced rates.

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