STATE OF NEW YORK

1741

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 20, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. DINOWITZ, SIMON, STERN, TAYLOR, DICKENS, THIELE, WEPRIN, SEAWRIGHT, JACOBSON, OTIS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to civil penalties on certain public utility companies, corporations or persons and the officers, agents and employees thereof

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

Section 1. Subdivision 2, paragraph (a) of subdivision 3 and paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 25 the public service law, as amended by chapter 375 of the laws of 1986, are amended to read as follows:

2. Any public utility company, corporation or person and the officers, agents and employees thereof that knowingly fails or neglects to obey or comply with a provision of this chapter or an order adopted under authority of this chapter so long as the same shall be in force, shall forfeit to the people of the state of New York a sum not exceeding [~~one hundred thousand~~] two million dollars constituting a civil penalty for each and every offense and, in the case of a continuing violation, each day shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense.

(a) [~~two hundred and fifty thousand~~] five million dollars constituting a civil penalty for each separate and distinct offense; provided, however, that for purposes of this paragraph each day of a continuing violation shall not be deemed a separate and distinct offense. The total period of a continuing violation, as well as every distinct violation, shall be similarly treated as a separate and distinct offense for purposes of this paragraph; or

(a) [~~five hundred thousand~~] ten million dollars constituting a civil penalty for each separate and distinct offense; provided, however, that for purposes of this paragraph each day of a continuing violation shall not be deemed a separate and distinct offense. The total period of a continuing violation, as well as every distinct violation, shall be

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

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similarly treated as a separate and distinct offense for purposes of this paragraph; or

§ 2. Subdivision 3, subparagraph (i) of paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 and paragraph (a) of subdivision 5 of section 25-a of the public service law, as added by section 2 of part X of chapter 57 of the laws of 2013, are amended to read as follows:

3. Any combination gas and electric corporation determined by the commission to have failed to reasonably comply as shown by a preponderance of the evidence with a provision of this chapter, regulation or an order adopted under authority of this chapter so long as the same shall be in force shall forfeit a sum not exceeding the greater of [~~one hundred thousand~~] **two million** dollars or two one-hundredths of one percent of the annual intrastate gross operating revenue of the corporation, not including taxes paid to and revenues collected on behalf of government entities, constituting a civil penalty for each and every offense and, in the case of a continuing violation, each day shall be deemed a separate and distinct offense.

(i) [~~two hundred fifty thousand~~] **five million** dollars or three one-hundredths of one percent of the annual intrastate gross operating revenue of the corporation, not including taxes paid to and revenues collected on behalf of government entities, whichever is greater, constituting a civil penalty for each separate and distinct offense; provided, however, that for purposes of this paragraph, each day of a continuing violation shall not be deemed a separate and distinct offense. The total period of a continuing violation, as well as every distinct violation, shall be similarly treated as a separate and distinct offense for purposes of this paragraph; or

(a) [~~five hundred thousand~~] **ten million** dollars or four one-hundredths of one percent of the annual intrastate gross operating revenue of the corporation, not including taxes paid to and revenues collected on behalf of government entities, whichever is greater, constituting a civil penalty for each separate and distinct offense; provided, however, that for purposes of this paragraph each day of a continuing violation shall not be deemed a separate and distinct offense. The total period of a continuing violation, as well as every distinct violation shall be similarly treated as a separate and distinct offense for purposes of this paragraph; or

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.