STATE OF NEW YORK

1630--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2023

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- 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 documented need for essential electricity for medical needs

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

Section 1. Paragraph (g) of subdivision 21 of section 66 of the public service law is relettered paragraph (i) and two new paragraphs (g) and (h) are added to read as follows:

(g) Each electric corporation shall establish a unique priority phone number that shall remain in operation every day of the year for customers who have documented their need for essential electricity for medical needs. Such electric corporation shall provide notice and identification of such phone number through bill inserts, via e-mail, and on such electric corporation's website. Such notice and identification shall include information relating to how existing customers can ensure they are still registered with the electric corporation as a customer who has documented their need for essential electricity for medical needs for the purposes of this section.

(h) Customers who have documented their need for essential electricity for medical needs shall be able to call such number established by paragraph (g) of this subdivision at any time, including a time preceding or during an electric service disruption to:

i. register with an electric corporation as a customer needing essential electricity for medical needs;

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;

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

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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.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.