STATE OF NEW YORK

9174

IN ASSEMBLY

February 12, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. SHRESTHA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to requiring investor-owned energy utilities to collect and publish data on disadvantaged communities in certain service areas

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "disadvantaged communities commitment act".

§ 2. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 28 to read as follows:

§ 28. Disadvantaged communities. 1. For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Investor-owned energy utility" shall mean any gas corporation, electric corporation, or combination gas and electric corporation.

(b) "Disadvantaged communities" shall have the same meaning as defined in subdivision five of section 75-0101 of the environmental conservation law.

2. The department shall require every investor-owned energy utility publish on its customer facing website, and file with the commission, statistics from the previous year regarding each disadvantaged community by census tract in its service area. Such statistics shall include, but not be limited to, the:

(a) number of residential customers who are electric only;

(b) number of residential customers who are gas only;

(c) number of residential electric and gas customers;

(d) number of residential customers enrolled in energy assistance program (EAP);

(e) number of residential customers enrolled in home energy assistance program (HEAP);

(f) number of residential customers enrolled in budget billing;

(g) average amount of arrears amongst residential customers;

(h) number of residential customers with active deferred payment agreements; and

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

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(i) number of residential customers impacted by any other program designed to provide relief or assistance in paying or lowering their bills.

3. (a) Such statistics required in subdivision two of this section shall be published with the commission and remain posted on an investor-owned energy utility's customer facing website three years from the date such statistics are published. Further, such statistics shall be downloadable on an investor-owned energy utility's customer facing website in a comma-separated value (csv) format.

(b) Such statistics required in subdivision two of this section shall be posted and filed for the prior calendar year upon the date this section takes effect. No later than January thirty-first and annually thereafter, each investor-owned energy utility shall publish and file such statistics in accordance with this section.

4. For each month an investor-owned energy utility is found to be in violation of this section, penalties or sanctions shall be assessed pursuant to section twenty-five or twenty-five-a of this article, as applicable.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.