STATE OF NEW YORK

2993

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 26, 2023

Introduced by Sen. HARCKHAM -- 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, the general business law and the public authorities law, in relation to requiring utility service providers to disclose planned rate increases to consumers within a certain amount of time

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 28 to read as follows:

§ 28. Notice of planned rate increase for services. 1. Any gas corporation, electric corporation, water corporation or municipality, steam corporation or telephone corporation shall be required to disclose to a consumer any planned rate increase for services being rendered to such consumer, within thirty but no less than seven days before such planned rate increase takes effect.

2. (a) Any notification of a planned rate increase pursuant to this section shall be communicated to the consumer in a clear and conspicuous method which is sufficient to alert such consumer that such planned rate increase is occurring.

(b) A consumer shall be notified in a separate communication outside of any billing statement via phone, electronic mail, letter, text message or any combination thereof that includes the following statement "This is a notification of a planned rate increase for the services currently being rendered". Inclusion of such notification as part of any billing statement shall not constitute compliance with this section.

3. Any gas corporation, electric corporation, water corporation or municipality, steam corporation or telephone corporation shall provide with any notification of a planned rate increase information on how a

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

LBD05712-01-3

consumer can contact the service provider and shall also include a mechanism to allow for a consumer to cancel their service altogether.

§ 2. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 399-yyyy to read as follows:

§ 399-yyyy. Notice of planned rate increases for cable and internet services. 1. Any cable television company or internet service provider shall be required to disclose to a consumer any planned rate increase for services being rendered to such consumer, within thirty but no less than seven days before such planned rate increase takes effect.

2. (a) Any notification of a planned rate increase pursuant to this section shall be communicated to the consumer in a clear and conspicuous method which is sufficient to alert such consumer that such planned rate increase is occurring.

(b) A consumer shall be notified in a separate communication outside of any billing statement via phone, electronic mail, letter, text message or any combination thereof that includes the following statement "This is a notification of a planned rate increase for the services currently being rendered". Inclusion of such notification as part of any billing statement shall not constitute compliance with this section.

3. Any cable television company or internet service provider shall provide with any notification of a planned rate increase information on how a consumer can contact the service provider and shall also include a mechanism to allow for a consumer to cancel their service altogether.

§ 3. Section 1020-cc of the public authorities law is amended by adding a new subdivision 3 to read as follows:

3. Service providers shall be subject to the provisions of section twenty-eight of the public service law.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.