# STATE OF NEW YORK

9263--A

# IN SENATE

February 19, 2026

Introduced by Sen. JACKSON -- 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 requiring public assistance payments for residential gas and electric service are accepted and credited by utilities

**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 HEFPA Protection Act".

§ 2. Section 32 of the public service law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

**7. A gas or electric corporation shall accept and credit any public assistance payment tendered on behalf of a residential customer by a social services district or the office of temporary and disability assistance, including but not limited to payments made pursuant to the home energy assistance program as established in section ninety-seven of the social services law, and emergency funding from programs as established in section one hundred thirty-one-s of the social services law. Upon receipt of such payment or notice that such payment has been authorized and will be issued, a gas or electric corporation shall treat the payment as made for all purposes under this section, including restoration of residential utility service, and satisfaction of other forms of collections activity, regardless of the status of the customer's account. Where such payment does not fully satisfy arrears, a gas or electric corporation shall encourage the customer to apply for any additional public assistance programs they may be eligible for and, upon exhaustion of such program applications and if such customer is otherwise eligible, offer the residential customer a payment agreement for the remaining balance in accordance with section thirty-seven of this article.**

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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