

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 352

BY SENATOR FIELDS

COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS. Requires utility providers to issue a credit to customers who experience an outage of service for more than 24 hours. (8/1/22)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part V-C of Chapter 9 of Title 45 of the Louisiana Revised Statues of 1950, to be

3 comprised of R.S. 45:1240.1 through 1240.3, relative to public utilities; to provide

4 relative to consumer credits; to provide rules, regulations, and procedures; and to

5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Part V-C of Chapter 9 of Title 45 of the Louisiana Revised Statues of

8 1950, comprised of R.S. 45:1240.1 through 1240.3, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **PART V-C. UTILITY CREDIT FOR CONSUMERS**

10 **§1240.1. Definitions**

11 **As used in this Part, the following terms and phrases shall have the**

12 **following meanings:**

- 13 **(1) "Commission" means the Louisiana Public Service Commission.**
- 14 **(2) "Utility or utility service provider" means either of the following:**
- 15 **(a) Any person, public or private, subject to the general jurisdiction of**
- 16 **the commission pursuant to Article IV, Section 21 of the Constitution of**
- 17 **Louisiana who provides electric or gas services to consumers in this state.**

1 **(b) Any person, public or private, who provides electric, water,**
2 **telecommunication, gas, cable, or internet service within this state.**

3 **(3) "Eligible customer" means any person that has a written service**
4 **agreement with a utility service provider.**

5 **§1240.2. Rules and regulations; utility credit**

6 **The commission shall adopt any rule or order to ensure that all eligible**
7 **customers of a utility service provider, who experience an outage of utility**
8 **service for a period longer than twenty-four consecutive hours, shall receive an**
9 **automatic credit to their utility service bill.**

10 **§1240.3. Violations; penalties**

11 **The commission shall, by rule or order, adopt penalties, for any violation**
12 **of this Part.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Xavier I. Alexander.

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Proposed law provides for the following definitions:

- (1) "Commission" means the La. Public Service Commission.
- (2) "Utility or utility service provider" means either:
 - (a) Any person, public or private, subject to the general jurisdiction of the commission pursuant to the Constitution of Louisiana who provides electric or gas services to consumers in this state.
 - (b) Any person, public or private, who provides electric, water, telecommunication, gas, cable or internet service within this state.
- (3) "Eligible customer" means any person that has a written service agreement with a utility service provider.

Proposed law provides that all utility service providers, who provides, gas electric, water, telecommunication, gas, cable or internet service in this state shall issue a credit to all customers who experience an outage of utility service for longer than 24 hours.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 45:1240.1-1240.3)