

2019 -- H 5313

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND  
CARRIERS

Introduced By: Representatives Casimiro, Noret, Carson, Solomon, and Shanley

Date Introduced: February 06, 2019

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 39-2 of the General Laws entitled "Duties of Utilities and Carriers"  
2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **39-2-26. Utility bill credit for multiple outages.**

4           (a) Any electric or gas distribution company regulated pursuant to this title shall provide  
5 a customer credit on the customer's next bill following any eligible outage as reimbursement for  
6 the loss or interruption of service when the loss of service occurs for a consecutive twenty-four  
7 (24) hour period and amounts to an aggregate period of one hundred sixty-eight (168) hours or  
8 more during any thirty (30) day period without the utility service. The amount of the credit  
9 provided to a residential customer shall be the amount of a customer's minimum bill prorated  
10 daily on a twenty-four (24) hour basis and which twenty-four (24) hour prorated amount shall  
11 determine the credit provided for each twenty-four (24) hour period without utility service.

12           (b) Electric and gas distribution companies shall be prohibited from recovering the cost  
13 of issuing credits pursuant to this section by way of any surcharge including, but not limited to,  
14 any rider, adjustment clause and/or recovery mechanism, added to any customer's bill in an effort  
15 to recover funds expended on utility bill credits.

16           (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply if the loss of electrical power or gas  
17 distribution was caused by the action or inaction of the residential customer, or if the electrical  
18 power or gas distribution to the residence was terminated by the customer or the electric or gas

1 distribution company.

2 SECTION 2. Chapter 39-19 of the General Laws entitled "Community Antenna  
3 Television Systems" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

4 **39-19-15. Utility bill credit for multiple outages.**

5 (a) Any community antenna television system (CATV) regulated pursuant this title shall  
6 provide a customer credit on the customer's next bill following any eligible outage as  
7 reimbursement for the loss or interruption of service when the loss of service occurs for a  
8 consecutive twenty-four (24) hour period and amounts to an aggregate period of one hundred  
9 sixty-eight (168) hours or more during any thirty (30) day period within the utility service. The  
10 amount of the credit provided to a residential customer shall be the amount of a customer's  
11 minimum bill prorated daily on a twenty-four (24) hour basis and which twenty-four (24) hour  
12 prorated amount shall determine the credit provided for each twenty-four (24) hour period  
13 without utility service.

14 (b) Community antenna television system (CATV) companies shall be prohibited from  
15 recovering the cost of issuing credits pursuant to this section by way of any surcharge including,  
16 but not limited to, any rider, adjustment clause and/or recovery mechanism, added to any  
17 customer's bill in an effort to recover funds expended on utility bill credits issued pursuant to this  
18 section.

19 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply if the loss of cable television service was  
20 caused by the action or inaction of the residential customer, or if the cable television service to  
21 the residence was terminated by the customer or the cable television transmission company.

22 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would require the issuance of utility bill credits to customers of electrical, gas, or  
2 cable television providers when the customer's service is interrupted for a period of one hundred  
3 sixty-eight (168) hours within a thirty (30) day period.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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