

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Hardy offered the following:

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3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Between lines 14 and 15, insert:

5 Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 366.15, Florida
6 Statutes, is amended to read:

7 366.15 Medically essential electric public utility
8 service.—

9 (6) No later than 96 ~~24~~ hours before any scheduled
10 disconnection of service for nonpayment of bills to a customer
11 who requires medically essential service, a public utility shall
12 attempt to contact the customer by telephone in order to provide
13 notice of the scheduled disconnection. If the customer does not

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14 have a telephone number listed on the account or if the public
15 utility cannot reach the customer or other adult resident of the
16 premises by telephone by the specified time, the public utility
17 shall send a representative to the customer's residence to
18 attempt to contact the customer, no later than 4 p.m. of the day
19 before scheduled disconnection. If contact is not made, however,
20 the public utility may leave written notification at the
21 residence advising the customer of the scheduled disconnection.
22 Thereafter, the public utility may disconnect service on the
23 specified date.

24 Section 2. Section 366.16, Florida Statutes, is created to
25 read:

26 366.16 Protection of Floridians' right to essential
27 electric service.-

28 (1) An electric utility may not discontinue electric
29 service to a residential customer if, before 8:00 A.M. on the
30 date of the scheduled disconnection, a heat index of 100 degrees
31 Fahrenheit or higher is in effect, or is forecasted to be in
32 effect by the National Weather Service, for the county in which
33 the meter scheduled for disconnection is located.

34 (2) An electric utility may not disconnect a residential
35 customer for nonpayment of a bill if that residential customer
36 has a serious illness which would be aggravated by the
37 disconnection, provided that the customer notifies the electric
38 utility of this condition in writing. A residential customer may

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39 also notify the electric utility orally, but must send the
 40 electric utility a written notice within 10 days after the oral
 41 notification. Within 10 days after providing initial notice to
 42 the electric utility, a written statement from a physician,
 43 psychologist, psychiatrist, county board of health, hospital, or
 44 clinic identifying the illness, its expected duration, and
 45 certifying that the illness would be aggravated by such
 46 disconnection must be received by the electric utility.

47 (3) An electric utility may not disconnect any commercial
 48 customer for nonpayment of a bill if that commercial customer
 49 provides emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence,
 50 human trafficking, or persons experiencing homelessness.

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53 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

54 Remove lines 2-3 and insert:

55 An act relating to utility services; amending s.
 56 366.15, F.S.; revising the period of time that must be
 57 granted to certain customers for nonpayment of bills
 58 before services are disconnected; creating s. 366.16,
 59 F.S.; specifying circumstances under which electric
 60 utilities are prohibited from discontinuing electric
 61 services to specified types of customers; creating s.
 62 366.032, F.S.;

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