

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 527

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ELLINGTON.

0314H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 386, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to charges imposed by utilities on customers.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 386, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 386.810, to read as follows:

386.810. 1. The provisions of this section shall be known and may be cited as the "Customer Utility Protection Act".

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a public utility discontinues service for any customer for any reason, such public utility shall not charge such customer fees or any other penalties in excess of the fees allowed under this section for reconnecting the service. Such customer's payments for the utility's service shall not increase as a result of the discontinuation of service, except as allowed under this section.

3. A public utility may charge a one-time fee for reconnecting its services after a discontinuation of service. Such one-time fee shall not exceed twenty dollars.

4. A public utility may charge a customer, whose service it has discontinued and then reconnected, a monthly fee over a twelve-month period beginning with the date that the utility reconnected the service. Such monthly fee shall not exceed five dollars. The utility may charge such monthly fee in addition to the one-time fee described under subsection 3 of this section.

5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a public utility shall not require a customer to pay any balance owed to the utility in order to receive restoration of service.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 **6. If a public utility seeks a rate increase, the public utility may use, as evidence in**
18 **any proceeding related to the proposed rate increase, any losses under this section.**

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