

HB 527 -- CONSUMER UTILITY PROTECTION ACT

SPONSOR: Ellington

This bill establishes the "Consumer Utility Protection Act" which establishes that a public utility shall not charge customers any fees or penalties beyond those allowed under the act for the reconnection of service after such service has been discontinued. A customer's payments may only increase as a result of discontinued service as provided under the act. The act authorizes a one-time fee for the reconnection of service not to exceed \$20, and an additional monthly fee over a 12 month period not to exceed \$5 each month. Furthermore, a public utility shall not require the payment of an outstanding balance before restoring service to a disconnected customer.