

HB 144 --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 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 specified in the bill. The bill 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 any more than 10% of any outstanding balance owed before restoring service to a disconnected customer.

This bill is the same as HB 1988 (2018).