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

Section A. Chapter 393, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 393.1900, to read as follows:

393.1900. 1. Utilities under this chapter shall forgive any past-due balances incurred during a state of emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic, as declared by the governor in an executive order, before raising a customer's rate.

2. Any customer whose rate is raised before past-due balances incurred during a state of emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic are forgiven, as declared by the governor in an executive order, shall have a cause of action for injunctive and punitive relief in any court of competent jurisdiction.

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.