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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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UTILITIES, CHAIR
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PA SAFE CAUCUS
PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS
WOMEN'S HEALTH CAUCUS

House Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee

Meeting Agenda

March 23, 2026

9:00 AM

515 Irvis Office Building

Call to Order

Roll Call

HB 1964 (Rep. Burgos) – Establishes a 12-month moratorium on the privatization of public water and wastewater systems and repeals the "fair market valuation" rules of Act 12.

HB 2131 (Rep. Boyd) – Addresses "sticker shock" for electric customers. When a private electric contract expires, if the customer doesn't pick a new plan, they are automatically moved to the utility's "Default Service" rate rather than a high variable rate.

Amendment A-XXXX

HB 2333 (Rep. Madsen) – This bill is a comprehensive update to Title 66 by the re-authorization of Chapter 14-A – The Responsible Rate Payer Protection

Act. HB 2333 balances the needs of utilities to collect payment for services provided with the rights of consumers to be able to get back on track when they get behind on their utility payments. The sets clear rules for, among other things, cash deposits, security deposits, expanding payment arrangements based on customer's ability to pay, reconnection of service while maintaining critical winter shut-off protections.

HR 403 (Rep. Matzie) - Designates April 2026 as "PA Safe Digging Month" in support of the Pennsylvania One Call System.

Any Other Business

Adjournment

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1964 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY BURGOS, BOROWSKI, SAPPEY, HANBIDGE, KRUEGER,
KAZEEM, O'MARA, GUZMAN, McNEILL, HILL-EVANS, PROBST, MAYES,
HOHENSTEIN, DONAHUE, STEELE, K.HARRIS, FREEMAN, HADDOCK,
GREEN, CIRESI, PARKER AND GILLEN, OCTOBER 17, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, TECHNOLOGY AND
UTILITIES, OCTOBER 17, 2025

AN ACT

1 Providing for a moratorium on the privatization of public water
2 and wastewater systems; establishing the Water Utility Reform
3 Working Group; and making a repeal relating to valuation of
4 acquired water and wastewater systems.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Public Water
9 Protection and Fair Utility Transition Act.

10 Section 2. Findings and declarations.

11 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

12 (1) Access to clean, affordable water is a fundamental
13 human need and a matter of public interest.

14 (2) Since the enactment of 66 Pa.C.S. § 1329 (relating
15 to valuation of acquired water and wastewater systems)
16 through Act No. 12 of 2016, the fair market valuation
17 mechanism has led to rapid privatization of publicly owned

1 water and wastewater systems, often resulting in significant
2 rate increases for the residents of this Commonwealth.

3 (3) The long-term public, environmental and economic
4 consequences of these transactions have not been sufficiently
5 studied nor addressed through comprehensive policy.

6 (4) A temporary pause is necessary to protect consumers
7 and allow the Commonwealth to develop a fair, sustainable and
8 accountable water utility framework.

9 Section 3. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

14 "Privatization." As follows:

15 (1) A sale, lease, transfer or conveyance of a
16 municipality-owned or authority-owned water or wastewater
17 system to a private, investor-owned or for-profit entity.

18 (2) The term does not include an acquisition ordered by
19 the commission in accordance with 66 Pa.C.S. § 529 (relating
20 to power of commission to order acquisition of small water
21 and sewer utilities).

22 "Working group." The Water Utility Reform Working Group
23 established under section 5(a).

24 Section 4. Moratorium.

25 (a) Prohibition.--Notwithstanding 66 Pa.C.S. § 1327
26 (relating to acquisition of water and sewer utilities),
27 beginning on the effective date of this subsection, and for a
28 period of 12 months thereafter, the privatization of a
29 municipality-owned, county-owned or authority-owned water or
30 wastewater system shall not be authorized, approved or executed

1 within this Commonwealth.

2 (b) Applicability.--Subsection (a) applies to:

3 (1) Finalizing an existing agreement not fully executed
4 prior to the effective date of this paragraph.

5 (2) Submitting an application for acquisition approval
6 to the commission.

7 (3) Issuing a request for proposal or initiating a sale
8 discussion with a private entity.

9 (c) Nonapplicability.--Subsection (a) does not apply to:

10 (1) An emergency transfer required to maintain public
11 health and safety.

12 (2) An acquisition ordered by the commission in
13 accordance with 66 Pa.C.S. § 529 (relating to power of
14 commission to order acquisition of small water and sewer
15 utilities).

16 (d) Enforcement.--An attempted action or proposal regarding
17 privatization within the moratorium period described in
18 subsection (a) shall be deemed null and void. The commission may
19 not docket or consider the attempted action or proposal during
20 the moratorium period.

21 (e) Expiration.--Unless extended by further legislative
22 action, the moratorium under this section shall expire 12 months
23 after the effective date of this subsection.

24 Section 5. Water Utility Reform Working Group.

25 (a) Establishment.--The Water Utility Reform Working Group
26 is established.

27 (b) Convening of working group.--No later than 60 days after
28 the effective date of this subsection, the Governor shall
29 convene the working group.

30 (c) Frequency of meetings.--The working group shall meet no

1 fewer than three times after the initial meeting convened in
2 accordance with subsection (b).

3 (d) Members.--The working group shall consist of the
4 following:

5 (1) The chairperson of the commission, who shall serve
6 as the chairperson of the working group.

7 (2) The Secretary of Environmental Protection or a
8 designee, who shall serve as the vice chairperson of the
9 working group.

10 (3) One member of the majority caucus of the Senate,
11 appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

12 (4) One member of the minority caucus of the Senate,
13 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

14 (5) One member of the majority caucus of the House of
15 Representatives, appointed by the Majority Leader of the
16 House of Representatives.

17 (6) One member of the minority caucus of the House of
18 Representatives, appointed by the Minority Leader of the
19 House of Representatives.

20 (7) A representative from the Office of Consumer
21 Advocate.

22 (8) A representative from AARP Pennsylvania.

23 (9) A representative from the Pennsylvania Municipal
24 Authorities Association.

25 (10) A representative from the Pennsylvania State
26 Association of Township Supervisors.

27 (11) A representative from the Pennsylvania State
28 Association of Boroughs.

29 (12) A representative from a Statewide low-income
30 advocacy organization, appointed by the Governor.

1 (13) A water utility economist or rate-setting expert
2 from academia or the nonprofit sector, appointed by the
3 Governor.

4 (14) A representative from an environmental advocacy
5 group, appointed by the Governor.

6 (15) A representative from a rural water/environmental
7 group, appointed by the Governor.

8 (16) A representative from the water and sewer industry,
9 appointed by the Governor.

10 (17) A citizen representative appointed by the Governor.

11 (e) Report.--

12 (1) No later than 10 months after the effective date of
13 this subsection, the working group shall develop a
14 comprehensive policy proposal that, at a minimum:

15 (i) Ensures equitable rate structures.

16 (ii) Protects public ownership.

17 (iii) Enhances regulatory oversight.

18 (iv) Improves transparency in utility transactions.

19 (v) Addresses safety, security and reliability of
20 drinking water.

21 (2) The working group shall issue a report containing
22 the comprehensive policy proposal described in paragraph (1),
23 which shall be delivered to the following:

24 (i) The Governor.

25 (ii) The commission.

26 (iii) The chairperson and minority chairperson of
27 the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
28 Committee of the Senate.

29 (iv) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
30 Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee

1 of the House of Representatives.

2 Section 6. Repeals.

3 (a) Repealed provisions.--The following are repealed:

4 (1) 66 Pa.C.S. § 1329 (relating to valuation of acquired
5 water and wastewater systems).

6 (2) Any other provision regarding the fair market
7 valuation of acquired water and wastewater utilities.

8 (b) Applicability.--The repeal of the provisions specified
9 under subsection (a) shall apply to contracts and agreements for
10 privatization that are dated on or after the effective date of
11 this subsection.

12 Section 7. Effective date.

13 This act shall take effect immediately.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HB1964 PN2471	Prepared By:	Sean Gatten (717) 783-0250,6255
Committee:	Consumer Protection & Utilities	Executive Director:	Timothy Scott
Sponsor:	Burgos, Danilo		
Date:	10/21/2025		

A. Brief Concept

HB 1964 places a moratorium on the sale of public water and wastewater systems to for profit water and wastewater companies, ensuring fair pricing, protecting ratepayers, and maintaining accountability in utility acquisitions.

C. Analysis of the Bill

House Bill 1964, PN 2471, introduced on October 17, 2025, proposes a significant pause on the privatization of public water and wastewater systems. The bill establishes a temporary moratorium and creates a working group to study and recommend reforms to the Commonwealth's water utility policies.

The goal of the bill is to address rapid privatization and associated consumer rate increases by temporarily halting sales and repealing the valuation mechanism established by Act 12 of 2016.

The legislation is built on three central actions:

1. Moratorium on Privatization

HB 1964 Immediately enacts a 12-month statewide moratorium on the privatization (sale, lease, or transfer) of any municipality-owned or authority-owned water or wastewater system to a private, for-profit entity.

This prohibition would prevent the Public Utility Commission (PUC) from docketing or considering any such acquisitions during the 12-month period.

The following acquisitions will not be subject to the moratorium:

1. Emergency transfers required to maintain public health and safety.
2. Acquisitions ordered by the PUC under Title 66, §529.

2. Repeal of Fair Market Valuation (Act 12)

The bill repeals 66 Pa.C.S. § 1329, the statute enacted by Act 12 of 2016. This repeal would eliminate the current "fair market valuation" (FMV) process used by the PUC to determine the sale price of public utilities. It can be argued that FMV mechanism has incentivized sales at inflated prices, leading to significant, long-term rate increases for consumers as the acquiring companies seek to recover costs.

3. Water Utility Reform Working Group

HB 194 establishes the "Water Utility Reform Working Group," to be convened by the Governor within 60 days of the bill's enactment. The working group is tasked with developing and delivering a comprehensive policy proposal to the Governor and the PUC.

Focus Areas: The proposal must address:

- Equitable rate structures for consumers.
- Mechanisms to protect and promote public ownership.
- Enhanced regulatory oversight of utility transactions.
- Improved transparency in the valuation and sale process.

Effective Date:

Immediately.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

Act 12 of 2016 in Pennsylvania amends the Public Utility Code to change how municipal water and wastewater systems are valued when sold to private companies, leading to significant implications for utility rates and consumer costs.

Key Provisions of Act 12

Fair Market Valuation: Act 12 allows for the valuation of municipal water and wastewater systems based on fair market value rather than the original cost minus depreciation. This change was intended to encourage the sale of municipal utilities to private companies by making it financially attractive for both sellers and buyers.

Impact on Rates: The act has led to higher utility bills for consumers, as private companies can incorporate the costs of acquiring these systems into their rate requests. Reports indicate that some communities have experienced rate increases of up to 166% following acquisitions under this law.

Regulatory Oversight: The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) is responsible for reviewing and approving applications for acquisitions under Act 12. The PUC has implemented additional transparency measures and review procedures to address consumer concerns about rising rates and the fairness of acquisition prices.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

Act 12 Reform/Repeal – Predatory Pricing/ “Fair Market Value” Proposals
(2025-2026 Legislative Session)

HB 50 by Representative Lisa Borowski – Updating the Water Services Act

HB 320 by Representative Ciresi - Requires public utilities to print notices of proposed rate changes on the outside of envelopes or mailings to the ratepayers.

HB 322 by Representative Ciresi - Requires the Public Utility Commission to accept public comments on proposed rate changes or system acquisitions by both mail and electronically.

HB 509 by Representative Carol Kazeem – Municipality Approval of Sale of Public Water Systems Owned by Act 47 Distressed Municipalities

HB 510 by Representative Carol Kazeem – PUC Oversight During the Sale of Public Water Systems Owned by Distressed Municipalities

HB 943 by Representative John Lawrence – Requires a Municipality or Municipal Authority to Receive an Analysis from the Independent Fiscal Office Prior to the Sale of a Water or Sewer System

HB 944 by Representative John Lawrence – Removes the ability of the PUC to approve a rate higher than 5% of the Fair Market Value of the Selling Utility as a Fee to Utility Valuation Experts

HB 945 Representative John Lawrence – Repeal of Act 12 of 2016

HB 946 by Representative John Lawrence – Ratepayer Referendum Prior to Sale of a Publicly Managed Water or Wastewater System Valued at More than \$1 million

SB 338 by Senator John Kane – Water Ratepayer Bill of Rights

SB 512 by Senator John Kane – Predatory Pricing Repeal

SB 667 by Senator Judy Schwank – Establishing a Binding Ratepayer Referendum Approval for Municipal Water/Wastewater Sales

SR 33 by Senator Michele Brooks – Joint State Government Committee Study on the Effects of Act 12 of 2016

Senator Michele Brooks – Requiring the PUC to Keep a Central Database of Rate Increases

Senator Carolyn Comitta – Reforming Water Protection for All

This document is a summary of proposed legislation and is prepared only as general information for use by the Democratic Members and Staff of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The document does not represent the legislative intent of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and may not be utilized as such.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2131 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY BOYD, FIEDLER, WAXMAN, MALAGARI, HILL-EVANS,
FREEMAN, KHAN, McNEILL, MADDEN, PROBST, BRENNAN, BOROWSKI,
DONAHUE, OTTEN, RIVERA, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ AND INGLIS,
JANUARY 12, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, TECHNOLOGY AND
UTILITIES, JANUARY 23, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in restructuring of electric utility
3 industry, further providing for duties of electric
4 distribution companies.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 2807(e) of Title 66 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:
9 § 2807. Duties of electric distribution companies.

10 * * *

11 (e) Obligation to serve.--A default service provider's
12 obligation to provide electric generation supply service
13 following the expiration of a generation rate cap specified
14 under section 2804(4) (relating to standards for restructuring
15 of electric industry) or a restructuring plan under section
16 2806(f) is revised as follows:

17 * * *

1 (8) If a customer served by an electric generation
2 supplier fails to take affirmative steps to enter into a new
3 contract by the date of termination of the customer's
4 existing fixed duration contract with an electric generation
5 supplier, the electric generation supplier shall
6 automatically return the customer's service to the default
7 service provider and charge a rate at the default service
8 provider's then-applicable default service rate. Within 60
9 days of the effective date of this paragraph, the commission
10 shall issue an order requiring each electric distribution
11 company to submit a compliance filing to implement the
12 requirement under this paragraph.

13 * * *

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No: HB2131 PN2788 **Prepared By:** Timothy Scott
Committee: Consumer Protection & Utilities (717) 783-0250 Ext 6451
Sponsor: Boyd, Heather **Executive Director:** Timothy Scott
Date: 3/2/2026

A. Brief Concept

The bill aims to reform current law, specifically regarding how electric distribution companies (EDCs) handle customers whose contracts with private suppliers end.

C. Analysis of the Bill

The primary goal of the bill is to protect consumers from being automatically shifted into high-variable-rate electricity plans when their fixed-term contracts expire.

Default Service Safeguards: If a customer's contract with an Electric Generation Supplier (EGS) ends and the customer does not choose a new supplier or take "affirmative steps" to enter a new contract, the bill mandates a specific fallback process.

Automatic Return to Default Service: Rather than allowing a private supplier to roll a customer into a month-to-month variable rate (which is often significantly more expensive), the bill requires that these customers be returned to the "Default Service" provided by their local utility (the "Price to Compare").

Compliance Filings: Within 60 days of the bill passing, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) would require all electric distribution companies to submit plans on how they will implement these new consumer protections.

Effective Date:

The act is designed to take effect 60 days after it is signed into law.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

66 Pa.C.S. § 2807 serves as the framework for Pennsylvania's transition to a competitive electricity market. It defines the core responsibilities of electric distribution companies, focusing on maintaining grid reliability, ensuring consumer protections, and fostering fair competition. To achieve these goals, the statute mandates specific safety standards, default service obligations, competitive procurement processes, and the implementation of smart meter technology.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

Current Session:

HB 757 (Consumer Protections for Energy Supply): Focuses on expanding the duties of electric distribution companies to provide clearer disclosures and protections for customers moving between suppliers and default service.

2023-24 Legislative Session:

HB 1578 (Protecting Consumers / Retail Energy Reform): This was a major piece of legislation that passed the House in late 2024. It aimed to crack down on "predatory" marketing by retail suppliers. While it focused heavily on bonding and training for suppliers, it was part of the broader effort to prevent customers from being trapped in high-cost plans after their initial contracts expired.

HB 1077 (Chapter 14 Reauthorization): While technically dealing with shutoff protections, this bill involved significant debate over "payment defaults." It addressed how the Public Utility Commission (PUC) manages consumers who default on their bills, which often forces them back onto default service.

2021-2022 Legislative Session

HB 2196 (Consumer Choice Billing): This bill sought to change how customers are billed when they choose a private supplier. It touched on "default service" by defining how billing data must be shared between the utility (the default provider) and the private supplier to ensure customers aren't double-billed or misled about their rates.

SB 447 (Small Business Default Service): Although a Senate bill, it saw significant House discussion. It aimed to ensure that small business customers were not unfairly penalized with high "hourly" default rates, advocating instead for a more stable fixed default price similar to residential accounts.

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2131

Sponsor:

Printer's No. 2788

1 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 7 and 8, by striking out all of
2 said lines and inserting

3 Section 1. Section 2807 of Title 66 of the Pennsylvania
4 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:

5 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 11 through 17; page 2, lines 1
6 through 12; by striking out all of said lines on said pages and
7 inserting

8 (f.1) Return to default service.--

9 (1) For electric generation supplier notices under 52
10 Pa. Code § 54.10 (relating to notice of contract expiration
11 or change in terms for residential and small business
12 customers), each notice shall contain a comparison of the
13 cost of maintaining service with the electric generation
14 supplier at the rate offered by the supplier as compared to
15 returning to the default service provider at the current
16 applicable price to compare. The comparison shall be made on
17 a cents per kilowatt hour basis that is inclusive of all fees
18 charged by the electric generation supplier for services
19 regardless of how charges are billed and shown on a 500
20 kilowatt hour, 1,000 kilowatt hour and 1,500 kilowatt hour
21 basis.

22 (2) If after receiving notice required under commission
23 regulations the customer fails to affirmatively consent to
24 renew or extend an agreement with the electric generation
25 supplier, the electric generation supplier shall return the
26 customer to default service immediately upon the expiration
27 date of an agreement between the electric generation supplier
28 and the customer.

29 (3) If the electric generation supplier fails to return
30 a customer to default service under paragraph (2), the
31 commission shall require the supplier to refund the customer
32 all charges incurred for the period the electric generation
33 supplier served the customer without the customer's
34 authorization.

35 (4) In addition to ordering a refund under paragraph

1 (3), if a supplier fails to return a customer to default
2 service, the commission shall fine the supplier an amount
3 that is sufficient to deter future violations of this
4 subsection. Absent good cause shown, if a supplier has failed
5 to return customers to default service on more than two
6 occasions in a calendar year, the commission shall suspend
7 the supplier's license for one calendar year. If after
8 reinstatement of a license, the supplier again fails to
9 comply with the provisions of this subsection on more than
10 two occasions in a calendar year, the commission shall
11 permanently revoke the supplier's license.

12 (5) If a customer fails to respond to an electric
13 generation supplier's notice of contract expiration under 52
14 Pa. Code § 54.10, an electric generation supplier may not
15 charge a cancellation fee.

16 (6) If a customer provides affirmative consent to remain
17 with a supplier at the end of a fixed-term contract, the
18 supplier must process a new electronic data interchange
19 transaction with the electric distribution company. The
20 commission shall require electric distribution companies and
21 electric generation suppliers to modify an electronic data
22 interchange process to provide sufficient information to
23 allow electric distribution companies to determine when a
24 customer's fixed-term contract with an electric generation
25 supplier has ended. If an electric distribution company has
26 not received a new electronic data interchange request from a
27 customer's supplier, or a request from a different supplier,
28 indicating that the customer has affirmatively consented to
29 enter into a new agreement within one billing cycle after the
30 end of a contract, the electric distribution company shall
31 return the customer to default service. If an electric
32 distribution company returns a customer to default service
33 because of the failure of the electric generation supplier to
34 do so under the requirements of this subsection, the electric
35 distribution company shall report the information to the
36 commission for enforcement actions against the supplier under
37 this subsection.

38 (7) As used in this subsection, the term "affirmative
39 consent" means:

40 (i) a clear, verbal statement signifying the
41 customer's freely given, specific, informed and
42 unambiguous agreement to the contract renewal or
43 continuous service terms; or

44 (ii) a written statement, including a statement
45 written by electronic means.

A02625 – HB 2131

Returns the customer to default service, with certain caveats like requiring suppliers to provide, in their notice, the cost of maintaining service with the supplier vs. the cost of returning to default service, (2) puts the responsibility of returning the customer to default service if the customer does not affirmatively agree to stay with the supplier, (3) if supplier fails to return the customer to default service, the supplier must provide a refund, (4) if a supplier fails to return the customer to default service, the PUC is required to issue fines against supplier; if supplier fails to return customers to default service more than twice in a calendar year, the supplier's license is suspended for one calendar year; once they get the license back and they continue to fail to return customers to default service, the supplier's license is permanently suspended, cancellation fees are prohibited for failing to respond to a notice, (6) opens up the process to allow EDCs to know when a customer's contract expires; if the EDC does not receive this notification, then the EDC will automatically return the customer to default service, and (7) if the EDC returns a customer to default service without prior notification by the EGS, the EDC is required to report this to the PUC for enforcement against the EGS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HB2333 PN0001	Prepared By:	Timothy Scott (717) 783-0250
Committee:	Consumer Protection & Utilities	Executive Director:	Timothy Scott
Sponsor:	Madsen, David		
Date:	3/17/2026		

A. Brief Concept

Updates Pennsylvania's law requiring utilities to provide Customer Assistance Programs to those who fall behind on payments.

C. Analysis of the Bill

Declaration of Policy

Adds a provision providing additional collection tools for PGW.

Adds water and sewer authorities in a city of the second class (Pittsburgh Water and Sewer)

Definitions

"Applicant" – clarifies that an applicant is someone at least 18 years of age or an emancipated minor.

"Change in Income" - Changes the amount of a decrease in household income that from 20% to 10% for those is over 300% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Clarifies what a change in come would mean for household under 300% FPL.

"Creditworthiness" - removes current customers from the definition, prohibiting credit checks on current customers.

"Customer" – clarifies that a customer is someone at least 18 years of age or an emancipated minor.

"Customer Assistance Program" - includes new language that requires water distribution and wastewater utilities to provide Customer Assistance Programs.

"Household income" - the combined gross income of all adults at least 18 years of age or emancipated minors. Excludes income both, earned and unearned, received by those under 18 or are not emancipated.

"LIHEAP" – Adds a definition of LIHEAP as used in the Public Utilities Code (Title 66)

"Medical Certificate" – removes social workers from the definition, but allows RNs to reauthorize a medical certificate.

"Significant change in circumstance" - removes utility verification of a change of circumstance. Changes "catastrophic damage" to "damage" to a customer's residence. Allows the PUC, at its discretion to consider any other circumstance.

"Significant change in in income" - Added to clarify that a change in income is considered a significant change in circumstance.

Section 1404-A. Cash Deposits

Removed language that would have included a right to collect a deposit under commission regulation or order.

Removed subsection (a.1) Cash deposit prohibition, as Section 1404.1-A prohibits customers under 300% FPL from being charged a security deposit and a.1 prohibits customers from being charged a security deposit if they qualify for a CAP. CAP requirements reflect the 300% FPL.

Added language to subsection (c) to require the return of a deposit to a customer who should not have been required to pay a deposit in the first place. While this instance should not be happening, this is a "belt and suspenders" approach just in case.
Page 10, Lines 5 & 12 of the original draft.

Section 1404.1 Security deposits.

Adds a new section 1404.1 that expressly prohibits the collection of a cash deposit for applicants or customers who are below 300% of FPL.

Section 1405. Payment arrangements

Length of payment arrangements – the length of time a customer has to repay and existing balance shall not extend beyond:

6 years for customers with a gross monthly income not exceeding 150% of FPL.

4 years for customers between 150% of FPL and 250% of FPL.

2 Years for customers between 250% of FPL and 300% of FPL.

1 year for customers over 300% of FPL.

Allows the PUC to extend the length of a payment arrangement if a customer's monthly payment would exceed 20% of the customer's average monthly bill.

Requires the PUC to order a public utility to establish a subsequent payment arrangement if a customer experienced a "change in income" or a significant change in circumstance".

Subsection (c)(1) - Prevents the commission from putting a customer into a payment arrangement while they are enrolled in a CAP. If the customer was enrolled in a CAP and accrued arrears, but is no longer in a CAP, the commission may enter the customer into a payment plan. This does not prevent utilities from entering customers into a payment plan while on a CAP. Additionally, in the notice of the PUC's proposed rulemaking, the PUC would put their authority to do this into regulation; this will preempt that part of the proposed rulemaking.

Section 1406 Termination of Utility Service

Requires a utility to provide notice of termination at least 20 days prior to the date of termination. Increases the length of time a termination notice is effective from 60 to 70 days.

Requires a utility to provide notice via email and other electronic means if the customer affirmatively consents to receive electronic notice of termination.

Requires a utility to update customer contact information and preferences for notification biannually.

Adds that utilities may only terminate service "absent special circumstances".

A public utility may not terminate service on a Friday, A Federal or State holiday or the business day immediately preceding a Federal or State holiday.

Prohibits winter termination for those below 250% of Federal Poverty Level between November 30 and April 1.

Removes Summer moratorium.

If a public utility employee is informed that an occupant is seriously ill or has a medical condition and is seeking a medical certificate, the utility may not terminate service for at least seven days.

A public utility may not terminate service for at least 60 days from the date of submission of a medical certificate or six months from the date of submission where a medical certificate

indicates a long-term illness.

A medical certificate may be renewed in accordance with the policy of the Commission.

A termination notice or other utility assistance is sufficient proof for a customer to receive a LIHEAP Crisis Grant from DHS.

A public utility must provide language access to customers who receive a termination notice, including English, Spanish with the top five additional languages spoken in the public utilities service territory posted on the utilities publicly available website.

Section 1407 - Reconnection of service.

Prohibits a reconnection fee for those under 250% of poverty level. Between 250% and 400% of FPL, the reconnection fee shall be included in the customer's arrearages.

Adds a subsection (a.1) prohibiting the collection of a fee for applicants or customers under 300% of Federal poverty level.

Requires public utilities to inform applicants and customers of the prohibition on reconnection fees at the time the reconnection fee is assessed and offer them the opportunity to prove their exemption.

Replaces the term "life event" with "significant change of circumstances" and removes the definition of "life event". The term "significant change of circumstances" is already defined in Section 1403-A.

Adds subsection (iv) to permit customers to reconnect to services through enrollment in a CAP without up-front payment of arrears.

Section 1409. Late payment charge waiver.

Requires the PUC to waive any late payment charges for customers with income under 300% of FPL.

Section 1410. Complaints filed with commission.

Requires the PUC to accept formal and informal complaints from those who have "made a good faith attempt to contact" a public utility. Currently the standard is "contacted".

Section 1410.1. Public utility duties.

Requires public utilities to screen a customer or applicant to determine if their household income is below 300% of FPL at the time service is established and annually thereafter.

If determined to be under 300% of FPL, the utility shall assess whether the customer or applicant is eligible for the utilities universal service and conservation programs prior to negotiating a payment arrangement.

Adds a subsection (2) to outline additional circumstances that would require a public utility to provide information about universal service programs, including but not limited to CAP. Subsection (2) requires public utilities to provide this information when the utility has information that would reasonably lead them to believe the customer is payment troubled.

Adds a subsection (3) to the requirements for utilities to provide customers with information. Paragraph (3) includes when the utility receives information that the customer may qualify for one of these programs.

Section 1412. Reporting of delinquent customers.

Deletes section allowing PGW to report delinquent customers to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority.

Section 1413. Reporting of recipients of public assistance.

Requires DHS to make available to each public utility with a signed LIHEAP agreement or other public utility assistance administered by the Department.

Section 1415.1. Reporting to commission.

Requires utilities to biannually submit publicly accessible reports to the commission.

Section 1417. Nonapplicability.

Adds a provision that this chapter does not apply to victims under a protection from abuse order with written certification from a domestic violence counselor/advocate, or a court order of competent jurisdiction (removed language limiting this to PA Courts).

Section 1419. Expiration.

Sunset this chapter on December 31, 2036.

Effective Date:

This Act goes into effect in 60 days.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

Customer Assistance Programs are mandated in Chapter 14 of Title 66.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

This passed the House as HB 1077 in the 2023-24 Legislative Session.

House Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee

9/30/2024 - Reported as Committed **18-7**

Floor

10/1/2024 - A05751 Passed House **109-93**

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 403 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, HILL-EVANS, CONKLIN, MADDEN, FREEMAN,
GOUGHNOUR, SANCHEZ, RIVERA, NEILSON AND MAYES,
JANUARY 28, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, TECHNOLOGY AND
UTILITIES, JANUARY 28, 2026

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2026 as "Pennsylvania 8-1-1 Safe
2 Digging Month."

3 WHEREAS, As engineers, designers, excavators and homeowners
4 work to keep pace with this Commonwealth's unprecedented
5 economic development, it is important to minimize damage to
6 underground utility lines, danger to workers, environmental
7 pollution and loss of utility service to residents of this
8 Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania One Call System, a utility
10 notification center celebrating more than 50 years of continuous
11 service to this Commonwealth, is key to preventing injuries and
12 damage when excavating and demolishing; and

13 WHEREAS, This unique service provides easy, one-call
14 notification about construction and excavation projects that may
15 endanger workers and jeopardize utility lines and promotes
16 workplace and public safety, reduces underground utility damage,
17 minimizes utility service interruptions and protects the

1 environment; and

2 WHEREAS, This vital service, which began with only six
3 utility companies in western Pennsylvania and the City of
4 Pittsburgh, now serves more than 100,000 excavators and 3,600
5 critical infrastructure owners throughout this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, Each year, the Pennsylvania One Call System receives
7 more than 1 million notification requests and transmits more
8 than 6 million notifications to its members, providing
9 protection to utility companies, their employees and customers;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Underground Utility Line Protection
12 Law, referred to as the One Call Act, has been used as a model
13 for many other states and at least seven foreign countries; and

14 WHEREAS, Dozens of counties and hundreds of municipalities
15 are following in the footsteps of the General Assembly and
16 adopting their own proclamations memorializing "Safe Digging
17 Month"; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
19 month of April 2026 as "Pennsylvania 8-1-1 Safe Digging Month";
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
22 excavators and homeowners of this Commonwealth to dial 8-1-1 or
23 1-800-242-1776 before digging in order to "Know What's Below,"
24 avoid injury, protect the environment and prevent millions of
25 dollars in damages; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives remind excavators
27 that three business days' notice before digging is the law
28 because safe digging is no accident and that more information
29 may be obtained by visiting www.pa811.org.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HR0403 PN2812	Prepared By:	Timothy Scott (717) 783-0250, Ext 6451
Committee:	Consumer Protection & Utilities	Executive Director:	Timothy Scott
Sponsor:	Matzie, Robert		
Date:	3/2/2026		

A. Brief Concept

HR 403 designates April 2026 as "Pennsylvania 8-1-1 Safe Digging Month," honoring the Pennsylvania One Call System for over 50 years of preventing infrastructure damage and workplace injuries.

C. Analysis of the Bill

To prevent environmental harm and costly service disruptions, the resolution emphasizes these mandates:

Call Before You Dig: Dial 8-1-1 or 1-800-242-1776 before starting any project.

Lead Time: Excavators must provide notification at least three business days prior to beginning work.

Purpose: Identifying underground utility lines is essential to minimize safety risks and protect the state's infrastructure.

Effective Date:

Upon passage of the resolution.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

The Underground Utility Line Protection Law (Act 287 of 1974), or the "One Call Law," established a non-profit that notifies excavators of underground utility locations upon request. This system is enforced by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

This resolution was introduced as HR 300 in the 2023-24 Legislative Session and SR 72 in the 2021-22 Legislative Session.

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