

# HB6943



## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

**HB6943**

by Rep. Monique D. Davis

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

220 ILCS 5/8-205.1 new

Amends the Public Utilities Act. Provides that notwithstanding any other provision of the Act, no natural gas utility shall disconnect service of any customer or affix a notice of service disconnection to the private property of any customer unless: (1) 6 months have passed without payment on the account and (2) the utility has received confirmation that the customer has received notice sent by certified mail informing the customer of his or her nonpayment and certain options available to the customer. Provides that any natural gas utility that violates the provision shall be fined by the Illinois Commerce Commission an amount equal to twice the outstanding balance on the customer's account.

LRB096 24132 ASK 43565 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Public Utilities Act is amended by adding  
5 Section 8-205.1 as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 5/8-205.1 new)

7 Sec. 8-205.1. Requirements for termination of natural gas  
8 service.

9 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no  
10 natural gas utility shall disconnect service of any customer or  
11 affix a notice of service disconnection to the private property  
12 of any customer unless:

13 (1) 6 months have passed without payment on the  
14 account; and

15 (2) the utility has received confirmation that the  
16 customer has received notice sent by certified mail  
17 informing the customer that:

18 (i) the customer's account is in arrears and the  
19 customer's service is subject to termination for  
20 nonpayment of a bill;

21 (ii) the customer can avoid disconnection of  
22 service by entering into a deferred payment agreement  
23 to pay past due amounts over a period not to extend

1 beyond the following November and the customer has the  
2 option to enter into a levelized payment plan for the  
3 payment of future bills; and

4 (iii) the customer may apply for any available  
5 assistance to aid in the payment of utility bills from  
6 any governmental or private agencies from the list of  
7 such agencies provided to the customer by the utility.

8 (b) Any natural gas utility that violates subsection (a) of  
9 this Section shall be fined by the Commission an amount equal  
10 to twice the outstanding balance on the customer's account.