



## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

HB1438

Introduced 2/21/2007, by Rep. David E. Miller

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

220 ILCS 5/8-207.5 new

Amends the Public Utilities Act. Provides that notwithstanding existing administrative rules, discontinuance of service to residential service is prohibited for up to 90 days when discontinuance of service will aggravate an existing serious illness of any person that is a permanent resident of the premise where service is rendered if the customer complies with specified criteria. Effective immediately.

LRB095 07724 MJR 27882 b

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 8-207.5 as follows:

6 (220 ILCS 5/8-207.5 new)

7 Sec. 8-207.5. Service for seriously ill customers.  
8 Notwithstanding existing administrative rules, discontinuance  
9 of service to residential service is prohibited for up to 90  
10 days when discontinuance of service will aggravate an existing  
11 serious illness of any person that is a permanent resident of  
12 the premise where service is rendered if the customer complies  
13 with the requirements of this Section.

14 The illness must be certified to the utility by a  
15 registered physician or local board of health. The  
16 certification shall be in writing and shall include the name of  
17 the ill person, a statement that he or she is a resident of the  
18 premises in question, the name, business address, and telephone  
19 number of the certifying party, the nature of the illness, and  
20 period of time during which termination will aggravate the  
21 illness.

22 Initial certification by the certifying party may be by  
23 telephone if written certification is forwarded to the utility

1 within 15 days.

2 Initial certification shall prohibit discontinuance of  
3 service for 60 days. Certification may be renewed by the  
4 customer for an additional 30 days by providing another  
5 certificate to the utility. Failure to renew the certificate  
6 shall entitle the utility to initiate discontinuance  
7 procedures.

8 The customer must enter into an agreement for the  
9 retirement of the unpaid balance of the account within the  
10 first 60 days and keep the current account paid during the  
11 period that the unpaid balance is to be retired. Notice of  
12 discontinuance of service sent to residential customers must  
13 include a notice in a form approved by the Commission.

14 In the event service is terminated within 30 days prior to  
15 certification of an illness by or for a qualifying resident,  
16 service shall be restored to that residence if a proper  
17 certification is thereafter made in accordance with this  
18 Section.

19 Any customer, regardless of connection status, that  
20 provides a certification by a doctor that the customer has a  
21 serious medical illness shall have service restored for no less  
22 than 30 days.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
24 becoming law.