

By Mr. Ambler of Weymouth, petition of Robert B. Ambler, Theodore J. Aleixo, Jr., Brian J. Donnelly, J. Michael Ruane, Arthur M. Khoury, William F. Galvin and Robert A. Manzelli for legislation to provide for a lifeline service of electrical power. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Six.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A LIFELINE SERVICE OF ELECTRICAL POWER.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to
2 defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith electrical service
3 for basic necessities of modern life at a stable, fair, and reasonable
4 cost and to encourage the reduction of electrical power for all
5 other uses beyond such basic necessities, therefore it is hereby
6 declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate
7 preservation of the public convenience.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in
General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as
follows:*

1 SECTION 1. It is the policy of the state that residents be able
2 to receive electrical service from an electric company for basic
3 necessities of modern life, such as lighting and refrigeration, at a
4 stable, fair and reasonable minimum cost; and to encourage the
5 reduction of electrical power consumption for all other uses
6 beyond such basic necessities.

7 As used in this section, the term "residential customer" means
8 an individual who maintains a permanent place of abode within
9 this state and is present in this state for more than an aggregate of
10 one hundred and eighty-three days of each year.

11 For the supply of electrical power to the principal dwelling of a
12 residential customer, that customer shall pay not more than 2.7¢
13 per kilowatt hour for each of the first three hundred kilowatt
14 hours exclusive of fuel charges as defined by Chapter 625 of the
15 Acts of 1974.

16 The rate provided by this section shall not be supplemented by
17 any minimum charge, service charge, or other periodic charges to
18 a residential customer for his principal dwelling.

19 The rate required by this section may be increased at times of
20 peak system demand, subject to the approval of the department,
21 provided that metering devices are used by the electric company
22 and the difference between peak energy charges and off-peak
23 energy charges is the same for all customers of the electric
24 company.

25 The department shall hold a public hearing or hearings to
26 review the lifeline service rate to insure that it is adequate to effect
27 the purposes of this section, and shall report its findings and any
28 recommended adjustments in the lifeline service rate to the
29 general court by the last Wednesday in December of 1978.

30 Each electric utility shall file with the Department of Public
31 Utilities revised tariffs in conformance with this act within thirty
32 days of passage of this act. The revised tariffs shall be effective
33 not later than thirty days from the date of filing.

34 In the event that implementation shall cause a loss of revenue
35 to an electric company, the additional revenue required shall be
36 obtained equitably from all classes of energy use in a just and
37 reasonable manner.

1 SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall remain in effect
2 for two years from its date of passage.