

By Mr. Herren of Fall River, petition of Albert Herren and other members of the General Court for legislation to define "seller of liquefied petroleum gas". Commerce and Labor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Three.

AN ACT RELATING TO LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM (PROPANE) GAS.

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. Definition.

2 (a) "Seller of liquefied petroleum gas." A retail distributor of
3 liquefied petroleum (propane) gas used to cook, to heat hot water,
4 or where used as a primary source of heat for the interior of a
5 dwelling house, mobile home, or other structure owned, rented,
6 or used by one or more individuals as a principal place of
7 residence.

1 SECTION 2. (a) No seller of liquefied petroleum gas
2 (propane) shall between November fifteenth and March fifteenth
3 shut off service to any residential customer who cannot pay an
4 overdue charge because of financial hardship, when such propane
5 service is used to provide heat for the customer's principal place
6 of residence.

7 (b) No seller of liquefied petroleum gas (propane) shall shut
8 off service to any household in which residents are sixty-five years
9 of age or older, provided that the customer cannot pay an overdue
10 bill because of financial hardship.

11 (c) No seller of liquefied petroleum gas (propane) shall shut off
12 service in any residence in which there is domiciled a person under
13 the age of twelve months provided that the customer cannot pay
14 an overdue bill because of financial hardship.

15 (d) The department of public utilities shall promulgate rules
16 and regulations consistent with sections (a), (b) and (c), as it deems

17 reasonable and necessary to implement the provisions of these
18 sections. Said rules and regulations shall be promulgated within
19 six months of the passage of the act.

20 (e) In the course of the department's rulemaking procedures,
21 consistent with sections (a), (b) and (c), the department shall
22 investigate security deposits, irregular pricing procedures, service
23 area zoning and any other issues the department finds necessary
24 to investigate in the course of its rulemaking. The department shall
25 promulgate rules and regulations consistent with this section as
26 it deems necessary to implement the provisions of this section.
27 Said regulations shall also be promulgated within six months of
28 the passage of this act.

29 (a) Any seller of liquefied petroleum gas (propane) found by
30 the department to willfully violate sections (a), (b), or (c), shall
31 be assessed a penalty, after a hearing by the department, in an
32 amount not less than five hundred dollars, and not greater than
33 two thousand dollars.