
By Ms. Pollard, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 350) of Sharon M. Pollard 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-eight.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A LIFELINE SERVICE OF ELECTRICAL POWER.

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. Chapter 164 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by adding the following section: —

3 *Section 92B.* It is the policy of the state that residents be
4 able to receive electrical service from an electric company for
5 basic necessities of modern life, such as lighting and refrigera-
6 tion, a stable, fair and reasonable minimum cost; and to
7 encourage the reduction of electrical power consumption for
8 all other uses beyond such basic necessities.

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

14 For the supply of electrical power to the principal dwelling
15 of a residential customer, that customer shall pay not more
16 than three cents per kilowatt hour for each of the first three
17 hundred kilowatt hours.

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

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

26 electric company.

27 The department shall hold a public hearing or hearings to
28 review the lifeline service rate to insure that it is adequate to
29 effect the purposes of this section, and shall report its findings
30 and any recommended adjustments in the lifeline service rate
31 to the nineteen hundred and seventy-nine session of the
32 general court, and periodically every three years thereafter.

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

37 In the event that implementation shall cause a loss of
38 revenue to an electric company, the additional revenue re-
39 quired shall be obtained equitably from all classes of energy
40 use in a just and reasonable manner.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.