

2010 -- S 2255

LC01605

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS

Introduced By: Senators P Fogarty, Sosnowski, Maher, Blais, and Tassoni

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 5 of the General Laws entitled "BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS"

2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 84

4 PROPANE GAS SUPPLIERS

5 **5-84-1. Purpose.** -- The purpose of this chapter is to further the economic well-being and
6 interests of the state by encouraging and enabling consumers to purchase propane gas at the
7 lowest competitive prices available and to provide consumer protection from deceptive practices.

8 **5-84-2. Tank supply.** -- (a) If a propane tank/receptacle is supplied by a
9 supplier/provider to the consumer for an open or on-going period of at least three (3) years, the
10 consumer will have the option of purchasing the tank at cost together with the cost of installation,
11 on the date of its installation. The supplier/provider may recoup the expense of such costs over
12 the three (3) year period in its billings to the consumer, provided that such costs will be pro-rated
13 over the three (3) year period.

14 (b) Tanks that have been furnished to existing customers, may at the option of the
15 customer, be purchased by the customer in the same manner. Each commercial supplier/provider
16 of propane gas will notify each customer of the option. The customer may provide his/her own
17 propane gas tank/receptacle pending inspection by the authority having jurisdiction, at a
18 reasonable and customary cost to the consumer. The customer is responsible for keeping the
19 propane gas tank/receptacle in a safe operating condition at all times. The supplier/provider will

1 notify each customer of the option.

2 **5-84-3. Denial of services.** -- A commercial supplier/provider of propane gas which
3 delivers such propane gas to residential consumers, will not deny services to those consumers
4 who are current, or who are no more than thirty (30) days past due on their accounts with the
5 supplier/provider.

6 **5-84-4. Termination of services.** -- (a) When a propane gas consumer terminates their
7 business relationship with the propane gas supplier/provider, that supplier/provider will have ten
8 (10) business days to remove their propane gas tank/receptacle from the customer's property.

9 (b) When a propane gas consumer terminates their business relationship with the propane
10 gas supplier/provider, the company will reimburse the consumer for any unused propane gas
11 within thirty (30) days.

12 (c) When a propane gas customer terminates their business relationship with the propane
13 gas supplier/provider, the company will not charge the consumer with a disconnect or removal
14 fee.

15 **5-84-5. Penalties.** -- Any person or entity who sells propane gas to residential consumers
16 who violates this section will have committed a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof may
17 be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand (\$1,000) dollars.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would provide certain consumer protections to propane gas customers from
2 propane gas suppliers/providers.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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