

HOUSE BILL 1879

By Freeman

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7;
Title 65; Title 68 and Title 69, relative to
termination of utilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 65, Chapter 32, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

65-32-201. Part definitions.

As used in this part, "utility" means:

- (1) An entity subject to the jurisdiction of the Tennessee board of utility regulation, in accordance with § 7-82-701;
- (2) A cooperative, as defined in § 65-25-102; or
- (3) A county-owned or municipality-owned utility that provides electric, natural gas, or water and wastewater services to the public.

65-32-202. Written notice of termination.

(a) If a utility terminates the utility service that the utility provides for a property, then the utility must provide written notice of the termination:

- (1) To the customer on record as having requested the utility service, at the address for which the service was requested; and
- (2) To the owner of the property, if different from the customer on record, at the address shown in the property assessment records for the property.

(b) If a utility:

- (1) As described in § 65-32-201(1) or (2), is reported to have violated subsection (a), then the comptroller of the treasury, or the comptroller's designee,

must refer the utility to the Tennessee board of utility regulation to order reasonable sanctions against the utility; or

(2) As described in § 65-32-201(3), is reported to have violated subsection (a), then the comptroller of the treasury, or the comptroller's designee, must impose reasonable sanctions against the utility.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 65-32-102, is amended by deleting "This chapter shall only apply" and substituting "Part 1 of this chapter applies only".

SECTION 3. The headings in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect July 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.