

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Slocum

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Analyst: Bob Eleff

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Section

- 1 **[216B.091] Monthly reports.** Specifies that monthly reports required under this section – statistics on disconnections, past due accounts, etc. – must be filed with the Public Utilities Commission within 45 days after the end of the month for which the data is reported.
- 2 **[216B.096] Subd. 5. Cold weather rule.** Directs utilities to use reasonable efforts to restore service that has been disconnected during the cold weather period (October 15 to April 15) within 24 hours after a utility and a customer have agreed to a payment plan.
- 3 **Subd. 10. Customers above 50 percent of state median income.** Specifies that a customer whose income exceeds 50 percent of the state median has a right to a payment agreement that takes into account the customer's financial situation.
- 4 **[216B.098] Subd. 3. Payment agreements.** Specifies that a payment agreement must consider a customer's financial circumstances and any other extenuating circumstances of the household. A customer who has entered and made timely payments under a payment agreement may not be charged an additional service deposit.
- 5 **Subd. 5. Life support equipment.** Requires a utility to restore or continue service to a customer if a physician has certified that a household resident uses electrical medical equipment necessary to sustain life. The customer is liable for all utility charges.
- 6 **Subd. 5a. Medical emergencies.** Requires a utility to restore or continue service to a customer if a physician has certified in writing that the medical condition of a household resident requires it, even if life-sustaining or medically necessary equipment is not involved.

The certification is valid for 14 days, during which time the customer must enter into a monthly payment agreement. The utility may require a down payment if a customer is more than 60 days overdue. Both payments must be reasonable, based upon the household's

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resources and circumstances. A customer may be disconnected if two consecutive scheduled payments are missed.