

Bill No. CS for CS for SB 1144

Amendment No. ____

<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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Senator Dawson moved the following amendment:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

On page 5, following line 31

insert:

Section 2. Section 366.15, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

366.15 Medically essential electric utility service.--

(1) As used in this section, the term "Medically essential" means the medical dependence on electric-powered medical equipment for residential customers that must be operated 24 hours per day, seven days per week; or to avoid the loss of life or immediate hospitalization of the residential customer or another permanent resident at the service address due to serious medical complications caused by the electric-powered medical equipment ceasing to operate. Notwithstanding the foregoing, medically essential service shall also include the following electric-powered medical equipment in the home: feeding tubes and medical equipment used in performing kidney dialysis in the home.

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1 (2) Each electric utility shall designate employees
2 who are authorized to direct an ordered continuation or
3 restoration of medically essential service. Doubts shall be
4 resolved in favor of continued or restored service. However,
5 such continued or restored service shall be for no longer than
6 10 business days to permit the customer to seek certification
7 under section 3(a) or re-certification under section 3(b). An
8 electric utility shall not impose upon any customer any
9 additional deposit to continue or restore medically essential
10 service.

11 (3)(a) Each electric utility shall provide an
12 explanation of the certification process upon the customer's
13 request and shall provide appropriate forms to be completed
14 before having the customer's service designated as medically
15 essential service. Certification of medically essential
16 service requires a written completion of a provided form by
17 the customer of record and completion of a provided form by a
18 physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, stating
19 in medical and nonmedical terms why the electric service is
20 medically essential.

21 (b) Medically essential service must be recertified no
22 more frequently than once every 12 months. Recertification of
23 medically essential service shall require in writing
24 completion of a utility provided form by the customer of
25 record and completion of a utility provided form by a
26 physician licensed to practice medicine in this state, stating
27 in medical and nonmedical terms why the electric service is
28 medically essential.

29 (4)(a) Each electric utility shall adopt policies and
30 procedures to ensure that electric service is provided to any
31 customer who provides to the electric utility a certificate

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1 from a doctor licensed under chapter 458 that such electric
2 service is medically essential. False certification of
3 medically essential service by a physician is considered a
4 violation of chapter 458.

5 (b) The continued provision of such service shall be
6 consistent with the requirements of the electric utility's
7 residential rates.

8 (5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
9 section, an electric utility may disconnect service to a
10 residence whenever an emergency may threaten the health or
11 safety of a person, the surrounding area, or the electric
12 utility's distribution system. The electric utility shall act
13 promptly to restore service as soon as feasible.

14 (6) No later than 24 hours before any scheduled
15 disconnection of service for nonpayment of bills to a customer
16 who requires medically essential service, an electric utility
17 shall attempt to contact the customer by telephone in order to
18 provide notice of the schedule disconnection. If the customer
19 does not have a telephone number listed on the account or if
20 the electric utility cannot reach the customer or other adult
21 resident of the premises by telephone by the specified time,
22 the electric utility shall send a representative to the
23 customer's residence to attempt to contact the customer, no
24 later than 4 p.m. of the day before scheduled disconnection.
25 If contact is not made, however, the electric utility may
26 leave written notification at the residence advising the
27 customer of the scheduled disconnection. Thereafter, the
28 electric utility may disconnect service on the specified date.

29 (7) Each electric utility customer who requires
30 medically essential service is responsible for making
31 satisfactory arrangements with the electric utility to ensure

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1 payment for such service.

2 (8) Each electric utility customer who requires
3 medically essential service is solely responsible for any
4 backup equipment or power supply and a planned course of
5 action in the event of a power outage or interruption of
6 service.

7 (9)(a) Each electric utility that provides electric
8 service to any of the electric utility's customers who require
9 medically essential service shall monitor, by certification no
10 more frequently than once every 12 months, the health or
11 condition of such customer and to call, contact, or otherwise
12 advise such customer of scheduled service interruptions.

13 (b) Each electric utility shall establish a program to
14 monitor the renewal of certificates no more frequently than
15 once every 12 months. The customer shall be sent by regular
16 mail the current package of information and advised that a new
17 certificate must be on file within 30 days after the
18 expiration of the existing certificates for medically
19 essential service to continue. If no certificate is received
20 within such 30-day period, the electric utility shall remove
21 all indications and procedures relating to the management of
22 medical essential service from the customer's records.

23 (10)(a) Each electric utility shall provide
24 information on sources of state or local agency funding which
25 may provide financial assistance to the electric utility's
26 customers who require medically essential service and who
27 notify the electric utility of their need for financial
28 assistance.

29 (b)1. Each electric utility that operates a program to
30 receive voluntary financial contributions from the electric
31 utility's customers to provide assistance to persons who are

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1 unable to pay for the electric utility's services shall
2 maintain a list of all agencies to which the electric utility
3 distributes such funds for such purposes and shall make the
4 list available to any such person who requests the list.

5 2. Each electric utility that operates such a program
6 shall:

7 a. Maintain a system of accounting for the specific
8 amounts distributed to each such agency, and the electric
9 utility and such agencies shall maintain a system of
10 accounting for the specific amounts distributed to persons
11 under such respective programs.

12 b. Train its customer service representatives to
13 assist any person who possesses a medically essential
14 certification as provided in this section in identifying such
15 agencies and programs.

16 Section 3. Nothing in this act shall form the basis
17 for any cause of action for monetary damages against an
18 electric utility. Failure to comply with any obligation
19 created by this act does not constitute evidence of negligence
20 on the part of the electric utility.

21
22 (Redesignate subsequent sections.)

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25 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

26 And the title is amended as follows:

27 On page 2, line 1, following the semicolon

28
29 insert:

30 creating s. 366.15, F.S.; defining the term

31 "medically essential"; requiring electric

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1 utilities to provide medically essential
2 service under specified circumstances;
3 requiring electric utilities to adopt policies
4 and procedures to ensure medically essential
5 service; authorizing utilities to disconnect
6 service under certain circumstances; providing
7 for notice to customers; providing for payment
8 for service; providing for monitoring of
9 customers; providing responsibilities for
10 customers; providing for the identification of
11 sources for funding purposes;

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