

FEB 20 1998

COMMERCE AND REGULATION

HOUSE FILE
BY FALLON

2384

Passed House, Date _____

Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing payment options associated with delinquent
2 utility bills.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2384

1 Section 1. Section 476.20, Code 1997, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 3A. The board shall adopt rules relating
4 to the payment of delinquent charges by a customer which are
5 uniform with respect to all public utilities furnishing gas or
6 electricity. The rules shall provide that a customer who is
7 unable to pay the total amount due for all services provided
8 by a public utility and who is subject to disconnection for
9 nonpayment of account may make payment on the account and
10 designate that such payment is to be credited toward the
11 balance due for a particular service being provided to the
12 customer by the utility. The public utility shall not
13 disconnect the service for which payment is made pursuant to
14 this subsection, so long as the customer continues to make
15 reasonable payments toward the balance due for such service.
16 This subsection does not supersede or limit any other rights
17 of the customer to continue receiving gas or electric service
18 as provided in this section.

19 EXPLANATION

20 This bill provides that a customer of a public utility who
21 is unable to pay the entire amount due to such utility for gas
22 and electric service may designate that a payment be credited
23 toward the amount due for either gas or electric service
24 exclusively. The utility is prohibited from disconnecting the
25 service for which payment is made so long as the customer
26 continues to make reasonable payments toward the balance due
27 for such service. The bill provides that the payment option
28 does not supersede or limit any other rights of the customer
29 to continue receiving service from the public utility as
30 otherwise provided under the law.

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