

SENATE BILL 1035

C5

5lr3496

By: **Senator A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2025

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Electric and Gas Service – Termination – Third-Party Notification**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a public service company to notify a certain municipality and
4 certain elected officials before terminating for nonpayment electric or gas service to
5 a multifamily dwelling unit for which the account is held by a property owner or
6 manager; and generally relating to termination of electric or gas service.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Public Utilities

9 Section 7–307.3

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Public Utilities**

15 7–307.3.

16 (a) **(1)** A public service company that intends to terminate, because of
17 nonpayment, electric or gas service to a customer of the service to a multifamily dwelling
18 unit shall notify the property owner or property manager of the multifamily dwelling unit
19 before terminating service to the customer if the public service company has received the
20 customer's consent that designates the property owner or property manager as a
21 third-party authorized to receive a notice of termination of services.

22 **[(b)] (2)** As a term of a lease of a multifamily dwelling unit, the property owner
23 or property manager of the multifamily dwelling unit may require a tenant to ensure that
24 a customer of the public service company that is responsible for the account for that

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



multifamily dwelling unit provides consent for the property owner or property manager to receive a notice of termination of services as a result of nonpayment by the customer.

[(c)] (3) A customer's consent may be provided to a public service company by:

[(1)] (I) the customer; or

[(2)] (II) if the consent is written, the property owner or property manager of the multifamily dwelling unit.

(B) BEFORE TERMINATING BECAUSE OF NONPAYMENT ELECTRIC OR GAS SERVICE TO A MULTIFAMILY DWELLING UNIT FOR WHICH THE ACCOUNT WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY IS HELD BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OR MANAGER OF THE MULTIFAMILY DWELLING UNIT, THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY SHALL NOTIFY:

(1) THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IN WHICH THE MULTIFAMILY DWELLING UNIT IS LOCATED, IF ANY; AND

(2) THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS IN WHOSE DISTRICTS THE MULTIFAMILY DWELLING UNIT IS LOCATED.

[(d)] (C) Each public service company shall set up a procedure for handling the third-party notification process in a manner best suited to the circumstances of the particular public service company.

[(e)] (D) Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent any other form of third-party notification that a customer may request.

[(f)] (E) The Commission may adopt regulations to carry out this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.