

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7025



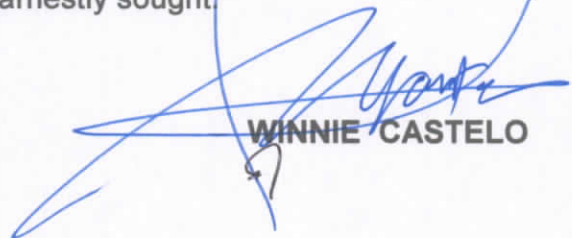
Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to protect subscribers from arbitrary protocols of basic utility companies that unceremoniously cut off their services on account of one time non-payment of a bill in a given period. Subscribers to basic utilities like electricity, water, telephone, etc., should not be disconnected from such services if their intent to pay can be established. Their track record of regular payments from previous billing periods could determine such intent. And considering the basic nature of the utilities availed of, they are assumed to be settled anyway.

Hence, basic utility companies should exercise more leniency and consideration for their subscribers who fail to settle a given bill and their failure to pay should be considered as a mere oversight. Their subscription, thus, should not be severed on account of one time failure to pay.

The immediate passage of this measure is most earnestly sought.


WINNIE CASTELO

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AN ACT
MANDATING ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR SUBSCRIBERS OF BASIC UTILITY SERVICES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

Be it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Enhanced Protection for Basic Utility Services Subscribers Act."

SEC. 2. Subscribers of basic utility services shall hereby be protected from unwarranted disconnection. Disconnection is henceforth unwarranted if the subscribers' intent to settle can be established. The intent is thus determined from the track record of regular payments of the subscriber.

SEC. 3. There shall hereby be a penalty meted out to basic utility companies who violate the provision of this Act. The Penalty shall be stipulated by a competent court.

SEC. 4. To fully implement the provisions of this Act, the proper national agency shall issue rules, regulations, guidelines necessary to operationalize the intent and purpose of this Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,