(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Provides that where multiple individuals are liable for payment of a utility charge, each responsible party shall provide acknowledgment of that liability by signing a form provided by the utility. The utility may allow up to thirty days for submittal of the signature, which may be provided in person or by mail. If the acknowledgment is not provided within thirty days, the utility may terminate services or be limited to seeking payment from the individual who established the account.

Provides that the city or town may not refuse to provide service to an applicant or customer because there are outstanding amounts due from a prior customer at the same premises, unless the city or town can determine, based on objective evidence, that a fraudulent act is being committed such that the applicant or customer is acting in cooperation with the prior customer with the intent to avoid payment.