

ESHB 1329 - S AMD 396
By Senator MacEwen

NOT ADOPTED 04/10/2023

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 23.86
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) As used in this section, any locally regulated utility as
6 defined in RCW 23.86.400 may not effect, due to lack of payment, an
7 involuntary termination of electric utility service to any
8 residential user, including tenants of metered apartment buildings
9 and residents of mobile homes, on any day for which the national
10 weather service issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk
11 is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the
12 area in which the residential user's address is located.

13 (2)(a) A residential user at whose dwelling electric utility
14 service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request that
15 the locally regulated utility reconnect service on any day for which
16 the national weather service issues a publicly available notice that
17 the heat risk is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4
18 (magenta) for the area in which the residential user's address is
19 located. The locally regulated utility shall inform all customers in
20 the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek reconnection and
21 provide clear and specific information on how to make that request,
22 including how to contact the utility.

23 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
24 subsection, the locally regulated utility shall promptly make a
25 reasonable attempt to reconnect service to the dwelling. The locally
26 regulated utility, in connection with a request made pursuant to (a)
27 of this subsection, shall provide the residential user with
28 information regarding the availability of bill assistance, options
29 for payment plans, and other financial resources from community
30 action agencies, the utility, or other sources to assist the
31 residential customer with payment of utility bills. If a utility
32 requires a payment plan, customer income verification shall be by
33 self-attestation or through a community action agency.

1 (3) On an annual basis, each locally regulated utility with more
2 than 25,000 retail electric customers in Washington must submit a
3 report to the department of commerce that includes the total number
4 of disconnections that occurred on each day for which the national
5 weather service issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk
6 is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta).
7 Locally regulated utilities with fewer than 25,000 retail electric
8 customers in Washington must provide similar information upon request
9 by the department.

10 (a) Subject to availability, each locally regulated utility must
11 provide any other information related to utility disconnections that
12 is requested by the department.

13 (b) The information required in this subsection must be submitted
14 in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 24.06
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) As used in this section, any locally regulated utility as
18 defined in RCW 24.06.600 may not effect, due to lack of payment, an
19 involuntary termination of electric utility service to any
20 residential user, including tenants of metered apartment buildings
21 and residents of mobile homes, on any day for which the national
22 weather service issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk
23 is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the
24 area in which the residential user's address is located.

25 (2)(a) A residential user at whose dwelling electric utility
26 service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request that
27 the locally regulated utility reconnect service on any day for which
28 the national weather service issues a publicly available notice that
29 the heat risk is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4
30 (magenta) for the area in which the residential user's address is
31 located. The locally regulated utility shall inform all customers in
32 the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek reconnection and
33 provide clear and specific information on how to make that request,
34 including how to contact the utility.

35 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
36 subsection, the locally regulated utility shall promptly make a
37 reasonable attempt to reconnect service to the dwelling. The locally
38 regulated utility, in connection with a request made pursuant to (a)
39 of this subsection, shall provide the residential user with

1 information regarding the availability of bill assistance, options
2 for payment plans, and other financial resources from community
3 action agencies, the utility, or other sources to assist the
4 residential customer with payment of utility bills. If a utility
5 requires a payment plan, customer income verification shall be by
6 self-attestation or through a community action agency.

7 (3) On an annual basis, each locally regulated utility with more
8 than 25,000 retail electric customers in Washington must submit a
9 report to the department of commerce that includes the total number
10 of disconnections that occurred on each day for which the national
11 weather service issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk
12 is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta).
13 Locally regulated utilities with fewer than 25,000 retail electric
14 customers in Washington must provide similar information upon request
15 by the department.

16 (a) Subject to availability, each locally regulated utility must
17 provide any other information related to utility disconnections that
18 is requested by the department.

19 (b) The information required in this subsection must be submitted
20 in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) A city or town, including a code city, that owns or operates
24 an electric or water utility may not effect, due to lack of payment,
25 an involuntary termination of utility service to any residential
26 user, including tenants of metered apartment buildings and residents
27 of mobile homes, on any day for which the national weather service
28 issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk is at a level 2
29 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the area in which
30 the residential user's address is located.

31 (2)(a) A residential user at whose dwelling utility service has
32 been disconnected for lack of payment may request that the utility
33 reconnect service on any day for which the national weather service
34 issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk is at a level 2
35 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the area in which
36 the residential user's address is located. The utility shall inform
37 all customers in the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek
38 reconnection and provide clear and specific information on how to
39 make that request, including how to contact the utility.

1 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
2 subsection, the utility shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to
3 reconnect service to the dwelling. The utility, in connection with a
4 request made pursuant to (a) of this subsection, shall provide the
5 residential user with information regarding the availability of bill
6 assistance, options for payment plans, and other financial resources
7 from community action agencies, the utility, or other sources to
8 assist the residential customer with payment of utility bills. If a
9 utility requires a payment plan, customer income verification shall
10 be by self-attestation or through a community action agency.

11 (3) On an annual basis, each city or town, including a code city,
12 that owns or operates an electric or water utility with more than
13 25,000 retail electric customers or 2,500 water customers in
14 Washington must submit a report to the department of commerce that
15 includes the total number of disconnections that occurred on each day
16 for which the national weather service issues a publicly available
17 notice that the heat risk is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or
18 level 4 (magenta). Utilities with fewer than 25,000 retail electric
19 customers or 2,500 water customers in Washington must provide similar
20 information upon request by the department.

21 (a) Subject to availability, each utility must provide any other
22 information related to utility disconnections that is requested by
23 the department.

24 (b) The information required in this subsection must be submitted
25 in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 54.16.285 and 1995 c 399 s 144 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) A district providing utility service for residential space
29 heating shall not terminate such utility service between November 15
30 through March 15 if the customer:

31 (a) Notifies the utility of the inability to pay the bill(~~(7~~
32 ~~including a security deposit)~~). This notice should be provided within
33 five business days of receiving a payment overdue notice unless there
34 are extenuating circumstances. If the customer fails to notify the
35 utility within five business days and service is terminated, the
36 customer can, by (~~(paying reconnection charges, if any, and)~~)
37 fulfilling the requirements of this section, receive the protections
38 of this chapter;

1 (b) Provides self-certification of household income for the prior
2 ((twelve)) 12 months to a grantee of the department of ((community,
3 trade, and economic development)) commerce which administers
4 federally funded energy assistance programs. The grantee shall
5 determine that the household income does not exceed the maximum
6 allowed for eligibility under the state's plan for low-income energy
7 assistance under 42 U.S.C. 8624 and shall provide a dollar figure
8 that is seven percent of household income. The grantee may verify
9 information provided in the self-certification;

10 (c) Has applied for home heating assistance from applicable
11 government and private sector organizations and certifies that any
12 assistance received will be applied to the current bill and future
13 utility bills;

14 (d) Has applied for low-income weatherization assistance to the
15 utility or other appropriate agency if such assistance is available
16 for the dwelling;

17 (e) Agrees to a payment plan and agrees to maintain the payment
18 plan. The plan will be designed both to pay the past due bill by the
19 following October 15 and to pay for continued utility service. If the
20 past due bill is not paid by the following October 15, the customer
21 shall not be eligible for protections under this chapter until the
22 past due bill is paid. The plan shall not require monthly payments in
23 excess of seven percent of the customer's monthly income plus one-
24 twelfth of any arrearage accrued from the date application is made
25 and thereafter during November 15 through March 15. A customer may
26 agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but shall not be
27 in default unless payment during this period is less than seven
28 percent of monthly income plus one-twelfth of any arrearage accrued
29 from the date application is made and thereafter. If assistance
30 payments are received by the customer subsequent to implementation of
31 the plan, the customer shall contact the utility to reformulate the
32 plan; and

33 (f) Agrees to pay the moneys owed even if ((he or she moves,
34 ~~(2-))~~) the customer moves.

35 (2) The utility shall:

36 (a) Include in any notice that an account is delinquent and that
37 service may be subject to termination, a description of the
38 customer's duties in this section;

39 (b) Assist the customer in fulfilling the requirements under this
40 section;

1 (c) Be authorized to transfer an account to a new residence when
2 a customer who has established a plan under this section moves from
3 one residence to another within the same utility service area;

4 (d) Be permitted to disconnect service if the customer fails to
5 honor the payment program except on the days indicated in subsection
6 (5) of this section. Utilities may continue to disconnect service for
7 those practices authorized by law other than for nonpayment as
8 provided for in this section. Customers who qualify for payment plans
9 under this section who default on their payment plans and are
10 disconnected can be reconnected and maintain the protections afforded
11 under this chapter by paying (~~reconnection charges, if any, and by~~
12 ~~paying~~) all amounts that would have been due and owing under the
13 terms of the applicable payment plan, absent default, on the date on
14 which service is reconnected; and

15 (e) Advise the customer in writing at the time it disconnects
16 service that it will restore service if the customer contacts the
17 utility and fulfills the other requirements of this section.

18 (3) All districts providing utility service for residential space
19 heating shall offer residential customers the option of a budget
20 billing or equal payment plan. The budget billing or equal payment
21 plan shall be offered low-income customers eligible under the state's
22 plan for low-income energy assistance prepared in accordance with 42
23 U.S.C. 8624(C)(1) without limiting availability to certain months of
24 the year, without regard to the length of time the customer has
25 occupied the premises, and without regard to whether the customer is
26 the tenant or owner of the premises occupied.

27 (4) An agreement between the customer and the utility, whether
28 oral or written, shall not waive the protections afforded under this
29 chapter.

30 (5) A district providing electric or water utility service to
31 residential customers may not effect, due to lack of payment, an
32 involuntary termination of utility service to any residential user,
33 including tenants of metered apartment buildings and residents of
34 mobile homes, on any day for which the national weather service
35 issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk is at a level 2
36 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the area in which
37 the residential user's address is located.

38 (6)(a) A residential user at whose dwelling utility service has
39 been disconnected for lack of payment may request that the district
40 reconnect service on any day for which the national weather service

1 issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk is at a level 2
2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the area in which
3 the residential user's address is located. The district shall inform
4 all customers in the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek
5 reconnection and provide clear and specific information on how to
6 make that request, including how to contact the district.

7 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
8 subsection, the district shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to
9 reconnect service to the dwelling. The district, in connection with a
10 request made pursuant to (a) of this subsection, shall provide the
11 residential user with information regarding the availability of bill
12 assistance, options for payment plans, and other financial resources
13 from community action agencies, the district, or other sources to
14 assist the residential customer with payment of utility bills. If a
15 district requires a payment plan, customer income verification shall
16 be by self-attestation or through a community action agency.

17 (7) On an annual basis, each district with more than 25,000
18 retail electric customers or 2,500 water customers in Washington must
19 submit a report to the department of commerce that includes the total
20 number of disconnections that occurred on each day for which the
21 national weather service issues a publicly available notice that the
22 heat risk is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4
23 (magenta). Districts with fewer than 25,000 retail electric customers
24 or 2,500 water customers in Washington must provide similar
25 information upon request by the department.

26 (a) Subject to availability, each district must provide any other
27 information related to utility disconnections that is requested by
28 the department.

29 (b) The information required in this subsection must be submitted
30 in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department.

31 **Sec. 5.** RCW 57.08.081 and 2003 c 394 s 6 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) Subject to RCW 57.08.005(~~(+6)~~) (7), the commissioners of any
34 district shall provide for revenues by fixing rates and charges for
35 furnishing sewer and drainage service and facilities to those to whom
36 service is available or for providing water, such rates and charges
37 to be fixed as deemed necessary by the commissioners, so that uniform
38 charges will be made for the same class of customer or service and

1 facility. Rates and charges may be combined for the furnishing of
2 more than one type of sewer or drainage service and facilities.

3 (2) In classifying customers of such water, sewer, or drainage
4 system, the board of commissioners may in its discretion consider any
5 or all of the following factors: The difference in cost to various
6 customers; the location of the various customers within and without
7 the district; the difference in cost of maintenance, operation,
8 repair, and replacement of the various parts of the system; the
9 different character of the service furnished various customers; the
10 quantity and quality of the service and facility furnished; the time
11 of its use; the achievement of water conservation goals and the
12 discouragement of wasteful practices; capital contributions made to
13 the system including but not limited to assessments; and any other
14 matters which present a reasonable difference as a ground for
15 distinction. Rates shall be established as deemed proper by the
16 commissioners and as fixed by resolution and shall produce revenues
17 sufficient to take care of the costs of maintenance and operation,
18 revenue bond and warrant interest and principal amortization
19 requirements, and all other charges necessary for efficient and
20 proper operation of the system. Prior to furnishing services, a
21 district may require a deposit to guarantee payment for services.
22 However, failure to require a deposit does not affect the validity of
23 any lien authorized by this section.

24 (3) The commissioners shall enforce collection of connection
25 charges, and rates and charges for water supplied against property
26 owners connecting with the system or receiving such water, and for
27 sewer and drainage services charged against property to which and its
28 owners to whom the service is available, such charges being deemed
29 charges against the property served, by addition of penalties of not
30 more than ten percent thereof in case of failure to pay the charges
31 at times fixed by resolution. The commissioners may provide by
32 resolution that where either connection charges or rates and charges
33 for services supplied are delinquent for any specified period of
34 time, the district shall certify the delinquencies to the auditor of
35 the county in which the real property is located, and the charges and
36 any penalties added thereto and interest thereon at the rate of not
37 more than the prime lending rate of the district's bank plus four
38 percentage points per year shall be a lien against the property upon
39 which the service was received, subject only to the lien for general
40 taxes.

1 (4) The district may, at any time after the connection charges or
2 rates and charges for services supplied or available and penalties
3 are delinquent for a period of (~~sixty~~) 60 days, bring suit in
4 foreclosure by civil action in the superior court of the county in
5 which the real property is located. The court may allow, in addition
6 to the costs and disbursements provided by statute, attorneys' fees,
7 title search and report costs, and expenses as it adjudges
8 reasonable. The action shall be in rem, and may be brought in the
9 name of the district against an individual or against all of those
10 who are delinquent in one action. The laws and rules of the court
11 shall control as in other civil actions.

12 (5) In addition to the right to foreclose provided in this
13 section, the district may also cut off all or part of the service
14 after charges for water or sewer service supplied or available are
15 delinquent for a period of (~~thirty~~) 30 days, except on the days
16 indicated in subsection (8) of this section.

17 (6) A district may determine how to apply partial payments on
18 past due accounts.

19 (7) A district may provide a real property owner or the owner's
20 designee with duplicate bills for service to tenants, or may notify
21 an owner or the owner's designee that a tenant's service account is
22 delinquent. However, if an owner or the owner's designee notifies the
23 district in writing that a property served by the district is a
24 rental property, asks to be notified of a tenant's delinquency, and
25 has provided, in writing, a complete and accurate mailing address,
26 the district shall notify the owner or the owner's designee of a
27 tenant's delinquency at the same time and in the same manner the
28 district notifies the tenant of the tenant's delinquency or by mail.
29 When a district provides a real property owner or the owner's
30 designee with duplicates of tenant utility service bills or notice
31 that a tenant's utility account is delinquent, the district shall
32 notify the tenant that it is providing the duplicate bills or
33 delinquency notice to the owner or the owner's designee. After
34 January 1, 1999, if a district fails to notify the owner of a
35 tenant's delinquency after receiving a written request to do so and
36 after receiving the other information required by this subsection
37 (7), the district shall have no lien against the premises for the
38 tenant's delinquent and unpaid charges.

39 (8) A district providing water utility service to residential
40 customers may not effect, due to lack of payment, an involuntary

1 termination of utility service to any residential user, including
2 tenants of metered apartment buildings and residents of mobile homes,
3 on any day for which the national weather service issues a publicly
4 available notice that the heat risk is at a level 2 (orange), level 3
5 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the area in which the residential
6 user's address is located.

7 (9) (a) A residential user at whose dwelling utility service has
8 been disconnected for lack of payment may request that the district
9 reconnect service on any day for which the national weather service
10 issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk is at a level 2
11 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the area in which
12 the residential user's address is located. The district shall inform
13 all customers in the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek
14 reconnection and provide clear and specific information on how to
15 make that request, including how to contact the district.

16 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
17 subsection, the district shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to
18 reconnect service to the dwelling. The district, in connection with a
19 request made pursuant to (a) of this subsection, shall provide the
20 residential user with information regarding the availability of bill
21 assistance, options for payment plans, and other financial resources
22 from community action agencies, the district, or other sources to
23 assist the residential customer with payment of utility bills. If a
24 district requires a payment plan, customer income verification shall
25 be by self-attestation or through a community action agency.

26 (10) On an annual basis, each district with more than 25,000
27 retail electric customers or 2,500 water customers in Washington must
28 submit a report to the department of commerce that includes the total
29 number of disconnections that occurred on each day for which the
30 national weather service issues a publicly available notice that the
31 heat risk is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4
32 (magenta). Districts with fewer than 2,500 water customers in
33 Washington must provide similar information upon request by the
34 department.

35 (a) Subject to availability, each district must provide any other
36 information related to utility disconnections that is requested by
37 the department.

38 (b) The information required in this subsection must be submitted
39 in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department.

1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 80.28.010 and 2011 c 214 s 11 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) All charges made, demanded or received by any gas company,
4 electrical company, wastewater company, or water company for gas,
5 electricity or water, or for any service rendered or to be rendered
6 in connection therewith, shall be just, fair, reasonable and
7 sufficient. Reasonable charges necessary to cover the cost of
8 administering the collection of voluntary donations for the purposes
9 of supporting the development and implementation of evergreen
10 community management plans and ordinances under RCW 80.28.300 must be
11 deemed as prudent and necessary for the operation of a utility.

12 (2) Every gas company, electrical company, wastewater company,
13 and water company shall furnish and supply such service,
14 instrumentalities and facilities as shall be safe, adequate and
15 efficient, and in all respects just and reasonable.

16 (3) All rules and regulations issued by any gas company,
17 electrical company, wastewater company, or water company, affecting
18 or pertaining to the sale or distribution of its product or service,
19 must be just and reasonable.

20 (4) Utility service for residential space heating shall not be
21 terminated between November 15 through March 15 if the customer:

22 (a) Notifies the utility of the inability to pay the bill(~~(7~~
23 ~~including a security deposit)~~). This notice should be provided within
24 five business days of receiving a payment overdue notice unless there
25 are extenuating circumstances. If the customer fails to notify the
26 utility within five business days and service is terminated, the
27 customer can, by (~~(paying reconnection charges, if any, and)~~)
28 fulfilling the requirements of this section, receive the protections
29 of this chapter;

30 (b) Provides self-certification of household income for the prior
31 twelve months to a grantee of the department of commerce, which
32 administers federally funded energy assistance programs. The grantee
33 shall determine that the household income does not exceed the maximum
34 allowed for eligibility under the state's plan for low-income energy
35 assistance under 42 U.S.C. 8624 and shall provide a dollar figure
36 that is seven percent of household income. The grantee may verify
37 information provided in the self-certification;

38 (c) Has applied for home heating assistance from applicable
39 government and private sector organizations and certifies that any

1 assistance received will be applied to the current bill and future
2 utility bills;

3 (d) Has applied for low-income weatherization assistance to the
4 utility or other appropriate agency if such assistance is available
5 for the dwelling;

6 (e) Agrees to a payment plan and agrees to maintain the payment
7 plan. The plan will be designed both to pay the past due bill by the
8 following October 15th and to pay for continued utility service. If
9 the past due bill is not paid by the following October 15, the
10 customer is not eligible for protections under this chapter until the
11 past due bill is paid. The plan may not require monthly payments in
12 excess of seven percent of the customer's monthly income plus one-
13 twelfth of any arrearage accrued from the date application is made
14 and thereafter during November 15 through March 15. A customer may
15 agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but shall not be
16 in default unless payment during this period is less than seven
17 percent of monthly income plus one-twelfth of any arrearage accrued
18 from the date application is made and thereafter. If assistance
19 payments are received by the customer subsequent to implementation of
20 the plan, the customer shall contact the utility to reformulate the
21 plan; and

22 (f) Agrees to pay the moneys owed even if (~~he or she moves,~~
23 ~~(5-)~~) the customer moves.

24 (5) The utility shall:

25 (a) Include in any notice that an account is delinquent and that
26 service may be subject to termination, a description of the
27 customer's duties in this section;

28 (b) Assist the customer in fulfilling the requirements under this
29 section;

30 (c) Be authorized to transfer an account to a new residence when
31 a customer who has established a plan under this section moves from
32 one residence to another within the same utility service area;

33 (d) Be permitted to disconnect service if the customer fails to
34 honor the payment program except on the days indicated in subsection
35 (8) of this section. Utilities may continue to disconnect service for
36 those practices authorized by law other than for nonpayment as
37 provided for in this subsection. Customers who qualify for payment
38 plans under this section who default on their payment plans and are
39 disconnected can be reconnected and maintain the protections afforded
40 under this chapter by paying (~~reconnection charges, if any, and by~~

1 ~~paying~~) all amounts that would have been due and owing under the
2 terms of the applicable payment plan, absent default, on the date on
3 which service is reconnected; and

4 (e) Advise the customer in writing at the time it disconnects
5 service that it will restore service if the customer contacts the
6 utility and fulfills the other requirements of this section.

7 (6) A payment plan implemented under this section is consistent
8 with RCW 80.28.080.

9 (7) Every gas company and electrical company shall offer
10 residential customers the option of a budget billing or equal payment
11 plan. The budget billing or equal payment plan shall be offered low-
12 income customers eligible under the state's plan for low-income
13 energy assistance prepared in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 8624(C)(1)
14 without limiting availability to certain months of the year, without
15 regard to the length of time the customer has occupied the premises,
16 and without regard to whether the customer is the tenant or owner of
17 the premises occupied.

18 (8)(a) Every electrical company and water company must have and
19 must abide by the terms of a tariff approved by the commission that
20 prohibits the electrical company or water company from effecting, due
21 to lack of payment, an involuntary termination of electric or water
22 utility service to any residential user, including tenants of metered
23 apartment buildings and residents of mobile homes, on any day for
24 which the national weather service issues a publicly available notice
25 that the heat risk is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level
26 4 (magenta) for the area in which the residential user's address is
27 located.

28 (b) Nothing in this subsection (8) limits the authority of the
29 commission to prohibit an electrical company or water company from
30 terminating electric or water utility service in accordance with an
31 approved tariff, rule, or order, in circumstances independent of the
32 weather.

33 (9)(a) A residential user at whose dwelling electric or water
34 utility service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request
35 that the utility reconnect service on any day for which the national
36 weather service issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk
37 is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the
38 area in which the residential user's address is located. The utility
39 shall, through a process approved by the commission, inform all
40 customers in the notice of disconnection of the ability to seek

1 reconnection and provide clear and specific information on how to
2 make that request, including how to contact the utility.

3 (b) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a) of this
4 subsection, the utility shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to
5 reconnect service to the dwelling. The utility, in connection with a
6 request made pursuant to (a) of this subsection, shall provide the
7 residential user with information regarding the availability of bill
8 assistance, options for payment plans, and other financial resources
9 from community action agencies, the utility, or other sources to
10 assist the residential customer with payment of utility bills. If a
11 utility requires a payment plan, customer income verification shall
12 be by self-attestation or through a community action agency.

13 (10) Every gas company, electrical company, wastewater company,
14 and water company shall construct and maintain such facilities in
15 connection with the manufacture and distribution of its product, or
16 provision of its services, as will be efficient and safe to its
17 employees and the public.

18 ~~((9))~~ (11) An agreement between the customer and the utility,
19 whether oral or written, does not waive the protections afforded
20 under this chapter.

21 ~~((10))~~ (12) In establishing rates or charges for water service,
22 water companies as defined in RCW 80.04.010 may consider the
23 achievement of water conservation goals and the discouragement of
24 wasteful water use practices.

25 (13) On an annual basis, each utility must submit a report to the
26 commission that includes the total number of electric or water
27 disconnections that occurred on each day for which the national
28 weather service issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk
29 is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta).

30 **Sec. 7.** RCW 87.03.015 and 2017 c 63 s 1 are each amended to read
31 as follows:

32 (1) Any irrigation district, operating and maintaining an
33 irrigation system, in addition to other powers conferred by law,
34 shall have authority:

35 ~~((1))~~ (a) To purchase and sell electric power to the
36 inhabitants of the irrigation district for the purposes of irrigation
37 and domestic use; to finance, acquire, construct, own, and lease
38 dams, canals, plants, transmission lines, and other power equipment
39 and the necessary property and rights therefor and to operate,

1 improve, repair, and maintain the same, for the generation and
2 transmission of electrical energy for use in the operation of pumping
3 plants and irrigation systems of the district and for sale to the
4 inhabitants of the irrigation district for the purposes of irrigation
5 and domestic use; and, as a further and separate grant of authority
6 and in furtherance of a state purpose and policy of developing
7 hydroelectric capability in connection with irrigation facilities, to
8 construct, finance, acquire, own, lease, operate, improve, repair,
9 and maintain, alone or jointly with other irrigation districts,
10 boards of control, municipal or quasi-municipal corporations or
11 cooperatives authorized to engage in the business of distributing
12 electricity, electrical companies subject to the jurisdiction of the
13 utilities and transportation commission, private commercial or
14 industrial entities that construct or operate electric power
15 generation or transmission facilities, or private commercial or
16 industrial entities that acquire electric power for their own use or
17 resale, hydroelectric facilities including but not limited to dams,
18 canals, plants, transmission lines, other power equipment, and the
19 necessary property and rights therefor, located within or outside the
20 district, for the purpose of utilizing for the generation of
21 electricity, water power made available by and as a part of the
22 irrigation water storage, conveyance, and distribution facilities,
23 waste ways, and drainage water facilities which serve irrigation
24 districts, and to sell any and all the electric energy generated at
25 any such hydroelectric facilities or the irrigation district's share
26 of such energy, to municipal or quasi-municipal corporations or
27 cooperatives authorized to engage in the business of distributing
28 electricity, electrical companies subject to the jurisdiction of the
29 utilities and transportation commission, private commercial or
30 industrial entities that acquire electric power for their own use or
31 resale, or other irrigation districts, and on such terms and
32 conditions as the board of directors shall determine. No contract
33 entered into under this subsection (1)(a) by the board of directors
34 of any irrigation district for the sale of electrical energy from
35 such hydroelectric facility for a period longer than forty years from
36 the date of commercial operation of such hydroelectric facility shall
37 be binding on the district until ratified by a majority vote of the
38 electors of the district at an election therein, called, held, and
39 canvassed for that purpose in the same manner as that provided by law
40 for district bond elections.

1 ~~((2))~~ (b) To construct, repair, purchase, maintain, or lease a
2 system for the sale or lease of water to the owners of irrigated
3 lands within the district for domestic purposes.

4 ~~((3))~~ (c) To construct, repair, purchase, lease, acquire,
5 operate and maintain a system of drains, sanitary sewers, and sewage
6 disposal or treatment plants as herein provided.

7 ~~((4))~~ (d) To assume, as principal or guarantor, any
8 indebtedness to the United States under the federal reclamation laws,
9 on account of district lands.

10 ~~((5))~~ (e) To maintain, repair, construct, and reconstruct
11 ditches, laterals, pipe lines, and other water conduits used or to be
12 used in carrying water for irrigation of lands located within the
13 boundaries of a city or town, or for the domestic use of the
14 residents of a city or town where the owners of land within such city
15 or town shall use such works to carry water to the boundaries of such
16 city or town for irrigation, domestic, or other purposes within such
17 city or town, and to charge to such city or town the pro rata
18 proportion of the cost of such maintenance, repair, construction, and
19 reconstruction work in proportion to the benefits received by the
20 lands served and located within the boundaries of such city or town,
21 and if such cost is not paid, then and in that event said irrigation
22 district shall have the right to prevent further water deliveries
23 through such works to the lands located within the boundaries of such
24 city or town until such charges have been paid.

25 ~~((6))~~ (f) To acquire, install, and maintain as a part of the
26 irrigation district's water system the necessary water mains and fire
27 hydrants to make water available for firefighting purposes; and in
28 addition any such irrigation district shall have the authority to
29 repair, operate, and maintain such hydrants and mains.

30 ~~((7))~~ (g) To enter into contracts with other irrigation
31 districts, boards of control, municipal or quasi-municipal
32 corporations or cooperatives authorized to engage in the business of
33 distributing electricity, electrical companies subject to the
34 jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission, private
35 commercial or industrial entities that construct or operate electric
36 power generation or transmission facilities, or private commercial or
37 industrial entities that acquire electric power for their own use or
38 resale, to jointly finance, acquire, lease, construct, own, operate,
39 improve, repair, and maintain irrigation water, domestic water,
40 drainage and sewerage works, and electrical power works to the same

1 extent as authorized by (a) of this subsection (~~((1) of this~~
2 ~~section)), or portions of such works. If an irrigation district~~
3 enters into a contract or agreement under this subsection (1)(g) to
4 create a legal entity or undertaking with an investor-owned utility
5 or a private commercial or industrial entity, that contract or
6 agreement must provide that the irrigation district be severally
7 liable only for its own acts and not jointly or severally liable for
8 the acts, omissions, or obligations of an investor-owned utility or a
9 private commercial or industrial entity. No money or property
10 supplied by any irrigation district for the planning, financing,
11 acquisition, construction, operation, or maintenance of any common
12 facility may be credited or otherwise applied to the account of any
13 investor-owned utility or private commercial or industrial entity
14 therein, nor may the undivided share of any irrigation district in
15 any common facility be charged, directly or indirectly, with any debt
16 or obligation of any investor-owned utility or private commercial or
17 industrial entity or be subject to any lien as a result thereof. No
18 action in connection with a common facility may be binding upon any
19 irrigation district unless authorized or approved by resolution of
20 its board.

21 ~~((8))~~ (h) To acquire from a water-sewer district wholly within
22 the irrigation district's boundaries, by a conveyance without cost,
23 the water-sewer district's water system and to operate the same to
24 provide water for the domestic use of the irrigation district
25 residents. As a part of its acceptance of the conveyance the
26 irrigation district must agree to relieve the water-sewer district of
27 responsibility for maintenance and repair of the system. Any such
28 water-sewer district is authorized to make such a conveyance if all
29 indebtedness of the water-sewer district, except local improvement
30 district bonds, has been paid and the conveyance has been approved by
31 a majority of the water-sewer district's voters voting at a general
32 or special election.

33 ~~((9))~~ (i) To approve and condition placement of hydroelectric
34 generation facilities by entities other than the district on water
35 conveyance facilities operated or maintained by the district.

36 (2) An irrigation district providing electric or water utility
37 service to residential customers may not effect, due to lack of
38 payment, an involuntary termination of utility service to any
39 residential users, including tenants of metered apartment buildings
40 and residents of mobile homes, on any day for which the national

1 weather service issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk
2 is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the
3 area in which the residential user's address is located.

4 (a)(i) A residential user at whose dwelling electric or water
5 utility service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request
6 that the irrigation district reconnect service on any day for which
7 the national weather service issues a publicly available notice that
8 the heat risk is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4
9 (magenta) for the area in which the residential user's address is
10 located. The irrigation district shall inform all customers in the
11 notice of disconnection of the ability to seek reconnection and
12 provide clear and specific information on how to make that request,
13 including how to contact the irrigation district.

14 (ii) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (a)(i) of this
15 subsection, the irrigation district shall promptly make a reasonable
16 attempt to reconnect service to the dwelling. The irrigation
17 district, in connection with a request made pursuant to (a)(i) of
18 this subsection, shall provide the residential user with information
19 regarding the availability of bill assistance, options for payment
20 plans, and other financial resources from community action agencies,
21 the district, or other sources to assist the residential customer
22 with payment of utility bills. If a district requires a payment plan,
23 customer income verification shall be by self-attestation or through
24 a community action agency.

25 (b) On an annual basis, each irrigation district with more than
26 25,000 retail electric customers or 2,500 water customers in
27 Washington must submit a report to the department of commerce that
28 includes the total number of disconnections that occurred on each day
29 for which the national weather service issues a publicly available
30 notice that the heat risk is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or
31 level 4 (magenta). Irrigation districts with fewer than 25,000 retail
32 electric customers or 2,500 water customers in Washington must
33 provide similar information upon request by the department.

34 (i) Subject to availability, each irrigation district must
35 provide any other information related to utility disconnections that
36 is requested by the department.

37 (ii) The information required in this subsection (2)(b) must be
38 submitted in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the
39 department.

1 (3) This section shall not be construed as in any manner
2 abridging any other powers of an irrigation district conferred by
3 law.

4 **Sec. 8.** RCW 59.18.060 and 2013 c 35 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The landlord will at all times during the tenancy keep the
7 premises fit for human habitation, and shall in particular:

8 (1) Maintain the premises to substantially comply with any
9 applicable code, statute, ordinance, or regulation governing their
10 maintenance or operation, which the legislative body enacting the
11 applicable code, statute, ordinance or regulation could enforce as to
12 the premises rented if such condition endangers or impairs the health
13 or safety of the tenant;

14 (2) Maintain the structural components including, but not limited
15 to, the roofs, floors, walls, chimneys, fireplaces, foundations, and
16 all other structural components, in reasonably good repair so as to
17 be usable;

18 (3) Keep any shared or common areas reasonably clean, sanitary,
19 and safe from defects increasing the hazards of fire or accident;

20 (4) Provide a reasonable program for the control of infestation
21 by insects, rodents, and other pests at the initiation of the tenancy
22 and, except in the case of a single-family residence, control
23 infestation during tenancy except where such infestation is caused by
24 the tenant;

25 (5) Except where the condition is attributable to normal wear and
26 tear, make repairs and arrangements necessary to put and keep the
27 premises in as good condition as it by law or rental agreement should
28 have been, at the commencement of the tenancy;

29 (6) Provide reasonably adequate locks and furnish keys to the
30 tenant;

31 (7) Maintain and safeguard with reasonable care any master key or
32 duplicate keys to the dwelling unit;

33 (8) Maintain all electrical, plumbing, heating, and other
34 facilities and appliances supplied by him or her in reasonably good
35 working order;

36 (9) Maintain the dwelling unit in reasonably weathertight
37 condition;

38 (10) Except in the case of a single-family residence, provide and
39 maintain appropriate receptacles in common areas for the removal of

1 ashes, rubbish, and garbage, incidental to the occupancy and arrange
2 for the reasonable and regular removal of such waste;

3 (11) Provide facilities adequate to supply heat and water and hot
4 water as reasonably required by the tenant;

5 (a) The landlord may not effect an involuntary termination of
6 electric utility or water service due to lack of payment to any
7 tenant on any day for which the national weather service issues a
8 publicly available notice that the heat risk is at a level 2
9 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the area in which
10 the tenant's address is located.

11 (b)(i) A tenant at whose dwelling electric or water utility
12 service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request that
13 the landlord reconnect service on any day for which the national
14 weather service issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk
15 is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the
16 area in which the tenant's address is located. The landlord shall
17 inform all tenants in the notice of disconnection of the ability to
18 seek reconnection and provide clear and specific information on how
19 to make that request, including how to contact the landlord.

20 (ii) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (b)(i) of this
21 subsection, the landlord shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to
22 reconnect service to the dwelling. The landlord, in connection with a
23 request made pursuant to (b)(i) of this subsection, shall provide the
24 tenant with information regarding the availability of bill
25 assistance, options for payment plans, and other financial resources
26 from community action agencies, the utility, or other sources to
27 assist the tenant with payment of utility bills. If a landlord
28 requires a payment plan, tenant income verification shall be by self-
29 attestation or through a community action agency;

30 (12)(a) Provide a written notice to all tenants disclosing fire
31 safety and protection information. The landlord or his or her
32 authorized agent must provide a written notice to the tenant that the
33 dwelling unit is equipped with a smoke detection device as required
34 in RCW 43.44.110. The notice shall inform the tenant of the tenant's
35 responsibility to maintain the smoke detection device in proper
36 operating condition and of penalties for failure to comply with the
37 provisions of RCW 43.44.110(3). The notice must be signed by the
38 landlord or the landlord's authorized agent and tenant with copies
39 provided to both parties. Further, except with respect to a single-

1 family residence, the written notice must also disclose the
2 following:

3 (i) Whether the smoke detection device is hard-wired or battery
4 operated;

5 (ii) Whether the building has a fire sprinkler system;

6 (iii) Whether the building has a fire alarm system;

7 (iv) Whether the building has a smoking policy, and what that
8 policy is;

9 (v) Whether the building has an emergency notification plan for
10 the occupants and, if so, provide a copy to the occupants;

11 (vi) Whether the building has an emergency relocation plan for
12 the occupants and, if so, provide a copy to the occupants; and

13 (vii) Whether the building has an emergency evacuation plan for
14 the occupants and, if so, provide a copy to the occupants.

15 (b) The information required under this subsection may be
16 provided to a tenant in a multifamily residential building either as
17 a written notice or as a checklist that discloses whether the
18 building has fire safety and protection devices and systems. The
19 checklist shall include a diagram showing the emergency evacuation
20 routes for the occupants.

21 (c) The written notice or checklist must be provided to new
22 tenants at the time the lease or rental agreement is signed;

23 (13) Provide tenants with information provided or approved by the
24 department of health about the health hazards associated with
25 exposure to indoor mold. Information may be provided in written
26 format individually to each tenant, or may be posted in a visible,
27 public location at the dwelling unit property. The information must
28 detail how tenants can control mold growth in their dwelling units to
29 minimize the health risks associated with indoor mold. Landlords may
30 obtain the information from the department's website or, if requested
31 by the landlord, the department must mail the information to the
32 landlord in a printed format. When developing or changing the
33 information, the department of health must include representatives of
34 landlords in the development process. The information must be
35 provided by the landlord to new tenants at the time the lease or
36 rental agreement is signed;

37 (14) The landlord and his or her agents and employees are immune
38 from civil liability for failure to comply with subsection (13) of
39 this section except where the landlord and his or her agents and

1 employees knowingly and intentionally do not comply with subsection
2 (13) of this section; and

3 (15) Designate to the tenant the name and address of the person
4 who is the landlord by a statement on the rental agreement or by a
5 notice conspicuously posted on the premises. The tenant shall be
6 notified immediately of any changes in writing, which must be either
7 (a) delivered personally to the tenant or (b) mailed to the tenant
8 and conspicuously posted on the premises. If the person designated in
9 this section does not reside in the state where the premises are
10 located, there shall also be designated a person who resides in the
11 county who is authorized to act as an agent for the purposes of
12 service of notices and process, and if no designation is made of a
13 person to act as agent, then the person to whom rental payments are
14 to be made shall be considered such agent. Regardless of such
15 designation, any owner who resides outside the state and who violates
16 a provision of this chapter is deemed to have submitted himself or
17 herself to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state and personal
18 service of any process may be made on the owner outside the state
19 with the same force and effect as personal service within the state.
20 Any summons or process served out-of-state must contain the same
21 information and be served in the same manner as personal service of
22 summons or process served within the state, except the summons or
23 process must require the party to appear and answer within (~~sixty~~)
24 60 days after such personal service out of the state. In an action
25 for a violation of this chapter that is filed under chapter 12.40
26 RCW, service of the notice of claim outside the state must contain
27 the same information and be served in the same manner as required
28 under chapter 12.40 RCW, except the date on which the party is
29 required to appear must not be less than (~~sixty~~) 60 days from the
30 date of service of the notice of claim.

31 No duty shall devolve upon the landlord to repair a defective
32 condition under this section, nor shall any defense or remedy be
33 available to the tenant under this chapter, where the defective
34 condition complained of was caused by the conduct of such tenant, his
35 or her family, invitee, or other person acting under his or her
36 control, or where a tenant unreasonably fails to allow the landlord
37 access to the property for purposes of repair. When the duty imposed
38 by subsection (1) of this section is incompatible with and greater
39 than the duty imposed by any other provisions of this section, the

1 landlord's duty shall be determined pursuant to subsection (1) of
2 this section.

3 **Sec. 9.** RCW 59.20.070 and 2019 c 342 s 4 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 A landlord shall not:

6 (1) Deny any tenant the right to sell such tenant's mobile home,
7 manufactured home, or park model within a park, or prohibit, in any
8 manner, any tenant from posting on the tenant's manufactured/mobile
9 home or park model, or on the rented mobile home lot, a commercially
10 reasonable "for sale" sign or any similar sign designed to advertise
11 the sale of the manufactured/mobile home or park model. In addition,
12 a landlord shall not require the removal of the mobile home,
13 manufactured home, or park model from the park because of the sale
14 thereof. Requirements for the transfer of the rental agreement are in
15 RCW 59.20.073. Nothing in this subsection prohibits a landlord from
16 enforcing reasonable rules or restrictions regarding the placement of
17 "for sale" signs on the tenant's manufactured/mobile home or park
18 model, or on the rented mobile home lot, if (a) the main purpose of
19 the rules or restrictions is to protect the safety of park tenants or
20 residents and (b) the rules or restrictions comply with RCW
21 59.20.045. The landlord may restrict the number of "for sale" signs
22 on the lot to two and may restrict the size of the signs to conform
23 to those in common use by home sale businesses;

24 (2) Restrict the tenant's freedom of choice in purchasing goods
25 or services but may reserve the right to approve or disapprove any
26 exterior structural improvements on a mobile home space: PROVIDED,
27 That door-to-door solicitation in the mobile home park may be
28 restricted in the rental agreement. Door-to-door solicitation does
29 not include public officials, housing and low-income assistance
30 organizations, or candidates for public office meeting or
31 distributing information to tenants in accordance with subsection (3)
32 or (4) of this section;

33 (3) Prohibit the distribution of information or meetings by
34 tenants of the mobile home park to discuss mobile home living and
35 affairs, including political caucuses or forums for or speeches of
36 public officials or candidates for public office, meetings with
37 housing and low-income assistance organizations, or meetings of
38 organizations that represent the interest of tenants in the park,
39 held in a tenant's home or any of the park community or recreation

1 halls if these halls are open for the use of the tenants, conducted
2 at reasonable times and in an orderly manner on the premises, nor
3 penalize any tenant for participation in such activities;

4 (4) Prohibit a public official, housing and low-income assistance
5 organization, or candidate for public office from meeting with or
6 distributing information to tenants in their individual mobile homes,
7 manufactured homes, or park models, nor penalize any tenant for
8 participating in these meetings or receiving this information;

9 (5) Evict a tenant, terminate a rental agreement, decline to
10 renew a rental agreement, increase rental or other tenant
11 obligations, decrease services, or modify park rules in retaliation
12 for any of the following actions on the part of a tenant taken in
13 good faith:

14 (a) Filing a complaint with any federal, state, county, or
15 municipal governmental authority relating to any alleged violation by
16 the landlord of an applicable statute, regulation, or ordinance;

17 (b) Requesting the landlord to comply with the provision of this
18 chapter or other applicable statute, regulation, or ordinance of the
19 state, county, or municipality;

20 (c) Filing suit against the landlord for any reason;

21 (d) Participation or membership in any homeowners association or
22 group;

23 (6) Charge to any tenant a utility fee in excess of actual
24 utility costs or intentionally cause termination or interruption of
25 any tenant's utility services, including water, heat, electricity, or
26 gas, except when an interruption of a reasonable duration is required
27 to make necessary repairs;

28 (7) (a) Effect an involuntary termination of electric utility or
29 water service due to lack of payment to any tenant on any day for
30 which the national weather service issues a publicly available notice
31 that the heat risk is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level
32 4 (magenta) for the area in which the tenant's address is located.

33 (b) (i) A tenant at whose dwelling electric or water utility
34 service has been disconnected for lack of payment may request that
35 the landlord reconnect service on any day for which the national
36 weather service issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk
37 is at a level 2 (orange), level 3 (red), or level 4 (magenta) for the
38 area in which the tenant's address is located. The landlord shall
39 inform all tenants in the notice of disconnection of the ability to

1 seek reconnection and provide clear and specific information on how
2 to make that request, including how to contact the landlord.

3 (ii) Upon receipt of a request made pursuant to (b)(i) of this
4 subsection, the landlord shall promptly make a reasonable attempt to
5 reconnect service to the dwelling. The landlord, in connection with a
6 request made pursuant to (b)(i) of this subsection, shall provide the
7 tenant with information regarding the availability of bill
8 assistance, options for payment plans, and other financial resources
9 from community action agencies, the utility, or other sources to
10 assist the tenant with payment of utility bills. If a landlord
11 requires a payment plan, tenant income verification shall be by self-
12 attestation or through a community action agency;

13 (8) Remove or exclude a tenant from the premises unless this
14 chapter is complied with or the exclusion or removal is under an
15 appropriate court order; or

16 ~~((+8))~~ (9) Prevent the entry or require the removal of a mobile
17 home, manufactured home, or park model for the sole reason that the
18 mobile home has reached a certain age. Nothing in this subsection
19 shall limit a landlord's right to exclude or expel a mobile home,
20 manufactured home, or park model for any other reason, including but
21 not limited to, failure to comply with fire, safety, and other
22 provisions of local ordinances and state laws relating to mobile
23 homes, manufactured homes, and park models, as long as the action
24 conforms to this chapter or any other relevant statutory provision."

ESHB 1329 - S AMD 396
By Senator MacEwen

NOT ADOPTED 04/10/2023

25 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "heat;" strike the
26 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 54.16.285, 57.08.081,
27 80.28.010, 87.03.015, 59.18.060, and 59.20.070; adding a new section
28 to chapter 23.86 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 24.06 RCW; and
29 adding a new section to chapter 35.21 RCW."

EFFECT: (1) Directs that on any day when the national weather service (NWS) issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk level is at a level 2 (orange), 3 (red), or 4 (magenta), instead of issuing or announcing it intends to issue a heat-related alert, an electric or water utility or landlord may not involuntarily terminate service for nonpayment.

(2) Requires an electric or water utility or landlord to provide the customer or tenant with specific information regarding the availability of bill assistance and options for payment plans when the customer or tenant requests reconnection for lack of payment on a day when NWS issues a notice for a heat risk level of 2, 3, or 4.

(3) Requires that if a utility or landlord requires a payment plan, customer income verification must be by self-attestation or through a community action agency.

(4) Removes the specified criteria for a repayment plan.

(5) Clarifies that reporting requirements for electric or water utilities must be for days where the NWS issues a publicly available notice that the heat risk is at a level 2, 3, or 4, instead of when it issues a heat-related alert.

--- END ---