

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 919**

**Representative Baker**

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To amend sections 4933.12 and 4933.121 and to enact 1  
sections 4933.124, 4933.125, 4933.126, 4933.127, 2  
and 4933.128 of the Revised Code regarding 3  
limitations to terminating utility service for 4  
residential customers. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 4933.12 and 4933.121 be amended 6  
and sections 4933.124, 4933.125, 4933.126, 4933.127, and 7  
4933.128 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 8

**Sec. 4933.12.** (A) Except as provided in division (C) of 9  
this section ~~and~~, sections 4933.124 and 4933.125 of the Revised 10  
Code, and division (E) of section 5117.11 of the Revised Code, 11  
if any person supplied with gas neglects or refuses to pay the 12  
amount due for the gas or for rent of articles hired by the 13  
person from a natural gas company or a gas company, the company 14  
may stop the gas from entering the premises of the person. In 15  
such cases, after twenty-four hours' notice, the officers, 16  
servants, or workers of the company may enter the premises of 17  
such persons, between eight a.m. and four p.m., take away such 18  
property of the company, and disconnect any meter from the mains 19  
or pipes of the company. 20

(B) The company shall not refuse to furnish gas on account 21  
of arrearages due it for gas furnished to persons formerly 22  
receiving services at the premises as customers of the company, 23  
provided the former customers are not continuing to reside at 24  
the premises. 25

(C) ~~The~~ Except as provided in sections 4933.124 and 26  
4933.125 of the Revised Code, the company shall not, for any 27  
reason, unless required by the consumer for safety reasons, or 28  
unless tampering with utility company equipment or theft of gas 29  
or utility company equipment has occurred, stop gas from 30  
entering the premises of any residential consumer for the period 31  
beginning on the fifteenth day of November and ending on the 32  
fifteenth day of the following April, unless both of the 33  
following apply: 34

(1) The account of the consumer is in arrears thirty days 35  
or more. 36

(2) If the occupant of residential premises is a tenant 37  
whose landlord is responsible for payment for the service 38  
provided by the company, the company has, five days previously, 39  
notified the occupant of its intent to discontinue service to 40  
the occupant. 41

(D) ~~No~~ Except as provided in sections 4933.124 and 42  
4933.125 of the Revised Code, no company shall stop the gas from 43  
entering any residential premises between the fifteenth day of 44  
November and the fifteenth day of April because of a failure to 45  
pay the amount due for the gas unless the company, at the time 46  
it sends or delivers to the premises notices of termination, 47  
informs the occupant of the premises where to obtain state and 48  
federal aid for payment of utility bills and for home 49  
weatherization and information on local government aid for 50

payment of utility bills and for home weatherization. 51

(E) On or before the first day of November, a county human 52  
services department may request a company to give prior 53  
notification of any residential service terminations to occur 54  
during the period beginning on the fifteenth day of November 55  
immediately following the department's request and ending on the 56  
fifteenth day of the following April. If a department makes such 57  
a written request, at least twenty-four hours before the company 58  
terminates services to a residential customer in the county 59  
during that period for failure to pay the amount due for 60  
service, the company shall provide written notice to the 61  
department of the residential customer whose service the company 62  
so intends to terminate. No company that has received such a 63  
request shall terminate such service during that period unless 64  
it has provided the notice required under this division. 65

(F) No company shall stop gas from entering the 66  
residential premises of any residential consumer who is deployed 67  
on active duty for nonpayment for gas supplied to the 68  
residential premises. 69

Upon return of a residential consumer from active duty, 70  
the company shall offer the residential consumer a period equal 71  
to at least the period of deployment on active duty to pay any 72  
arrearages incurred during the period of deployment. The company 73  
shall inform the residential consumer that, if the period the 74  
company offers presents a hardship to the consumer, the consumer 75  
may request a longer period to pay the arrearages and, in the 76  
case of a company that is a public utility as defined in section 77  
4905.02 of the Revised Code, may request the assistance of the 78  
public utilities commission to obtain a longer period. No late 79  
payment fees or interest shall be charged to the residential 80

consumer during the period of deployment or the repayment 81  
period. 82

If a company that is a public utility determines that 83  
amounts owed by a residential consumer who is deployed on active 84  
duty are uncollectible, the company may file an application with 85  
the public utilities commission for approval of authority to 86  
recover the amounts. The recovery shall be through a rider on 87  
the base rates of customers of the company or through other 88  
means as may be approved by the commission, provided that any 89  
amount approved to be recovered through a rider or other means 90  
shall not be considered by the commission in any subsequent rate 91  
determination. 92

As used in this division, "active duty" means active duty 93  
pursuant to an executive order of the president of the United 94  
States, an act of the congress of the United States, or section 95  
5919.29 or 5923.21 of the Revised Code. 96

**Sec. 4933.121.** (A) Except as provided in sections 4933.124 97  
and 4933.125 of the Revised Code and division (E) of section 98  
5117.11 of the Revised Code, an electric light company shall 99  
not, for any reason, unless requested by the consumer for safety 100  
reasons, or unless tampering with utility company equipment or 101  
theft of electricity or utility company equipment has occurred, 102  
cease to provide electricity to any residential consumer for the 103  
period beginning on the fifteenth day of November and ending on 104  
the fifteenth day of the following April, unless both of the 105  
following apply: 106

(1) The account of the consumer is in arrears thirty days 107  
or more. 108

(2) If the occupant of residential premises is a tenant 109

whose landlord is responsible for payment for the service 110  
provided by the company, the company has, five days previously, 111  
notified the occupant of its intent to discontinue service to 112  
the occupant. 113

(B) The company shall not refuse to furnish electricity on 114  
account of arrearages due it for electricity furnished to 115  
persons formerly receiving services at the premises as customers 116  
of the company, provided the former customers are not continuing 117  
to reside at the premises. 118

(C) ~~No~~ Except as provided in sections 4933.124 and 119  
4933.125 of the Revised Code, no company shall cease to provide 120  
electricity to any residential premises between the fifteenth 121  
day of November and the fifteenth day of April because of a 122  
failure to pay the amount due for the electricity unless the 123  
company, at the time it sends or delivers to the premises 124  
notices of termination, informs the occupant of the premises 125  
where to obtain state and federal aid for payment of utility 126  
bills and for home weatherization and information on local 127  
government aid for payment of utility bills and for home 128  
weatherization. 129

(D) On or before the first day of November, a county human 130  
services department may request a company to give prior 131  
notification of any residential service terminations to occur 132  
during the period beginning on the fifteenth day of November 133  
immediately following the department's request and ending on the 134  
fifteenth day of the following April. If a department makes such 135  
a written request, at least twenty-four hours before the company 136  
terminates services to a residential customer in the county 137  
during that period for failure to pay the amount due for 138  
service, the company shall provide written notice to the 139

department of the residential customer whose service the company 140  
so intends to terminate. No company that has received such a 141  
request shall terminate such service during that period unless 142  
it has provided the notice required under this division. 143

(E) No company shall cease to provide electricity to the 144  
residential premises of any residential consumer who is deployed 145  
on active duty for nonpayment for electricity provided to the 146  
residential premises. 147

Upon return of a residential consumer from active duty, 148  
the company shall offer the residential consumer a period equal 149  
to at least the period of deployment on active duty to pay any 150  
arrearages incurred during the period of deployment. The company 151  
shall inform the residential consumer that, if the period the 152  
company offers presents a hardship to the consumer, the consumer 153  
may request a longer period to pay the arrearages and, in the 154  
case of a company that is a public utility as defined in section 155  
4905.02 of the Revised Code, may request the assistance of the 156  
public utilities commission to obtain a longer period. No late 157  
payment fees or interest shall be charged to the residential 158  
consumer during the period of deployment or the repayment 159  
period. 160

If a company that is a public utility determines that 161  
amounts owed by a residential consumer who is deployed on active 162  
duty are uncollectible, the company may file an application with 163  
the public utilities commission for approval of authority to 164  
recover the amounts. The recovery shall be through a rider on 165  
the base rates of customers of the company or through other 166  
means as may be approved by the commission, provided that any 167  
amount approved to be recovered through a rider or other means 168  
shall not be considered by the commission in any subsequent rate 169

determination. 170

As used in this division, "active duty" means active duty 171  
pursuant to an executive order of the president of the United 172  
States, an act of the congress of the United States, or section 173  
5919.29 or 5923.21 of the Revised Code. 174

Sec. 4933.124. (A) As used in sections 4933.124 to 175  
4933.128 of the Revised Code, "utility company" means any 176  
company defined in section 4905.03 of the Revised Code that is 177  
also a "public utility" under section 4905.02 of the Revised 178  
Code. 179

(B) Notwithstanding any section in the Revised Code to the 180  
contrary, a utility company shall not terminate utility service 181  
to a residential customer due to nonpayment from the period 182  
beginning on the twenty-second day of December and ending on the 183  
first day of January the following year. 184

Sec. 4933.125. Subject to division (B) of section 4933.124 185  
of the Revised Code, and notwithstanding any other section of 186  
the Revised Code to the contrary, other than that division, a 187  
utility company shall not terminate any utility service used to 188  
heat or cool a residential premises due to nonpayment in the 189  
following circumstances: 190

(A) When the national weather service reports that the 191  
eight a.m. temperature at a location in this state that is 192  
within fifty miles of the residence that is subject to the 193  
termination is at or below thirty degrees Fahrenheit; 194

(B) When the eight a.m. national weather service forecast 195  
contains a special weather statement or other information 196  
predicting that the heat index measured at a location within 197  
fifty miles of the residence subject to the termination may 198

equal or exceed ninety degrees Fahrenheit. 199

**Sec. 4933.126.** (A) If a utility company refrains from 200  
terminating utility service to a residential premises because of 201  
the prohibitions in sections 4933.124 and 4933.125 of the 202  
Revised Code, the utility company shall leave notice of the 203  
delayed termination at the premises on the date on which the 204  
termination was scheduled. 205

(B) The notice described in division (A) of this section 206  
shall inform the resident that utility service will be 207  
terminated on a day where the circumstances described in 208  
sections 4933.124 and 4933.125 of the Revised Code do not apply 209  
and instructions for the resident regarding how to prevent the 210  
utility service termination, including instructions to make 211  
billing arrangements and where to apply for state or federal 212  
utility service payment assistance. 213

**Sec. 4933.127.** Sections 4933.124 and 4933.125 of the 214  
Revised Code do not apply in the following circumstances: 215

(A) The customer requested the utility service 216  
termination. 217

(B) There exists a hazardous situation where continuing to 218  
provide utility service would pose a threat to the safety of the 219  
customer or the general public. 220

**Sec. 4933.128.** Not later than six months after the 221  
effective date of this section, the public utilities commission 222  
shall adopt rules to administer and enforce sections 4933.124 to 223  
4933.127 of the Revised Code, including assessing fines on the 224  
utility company for each instance of noncompliance with those 225  
sections. 226

**Section 2.** That existing sections 4933.12 and 4933.121 of 227

the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

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