A BILL

To prevent the disruption of utility service during the state of emergency declared regarding COVID-19 and to declare an emergency.

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

Section 1. (A) As used in this section:

"Cooperative" means an "electric cooperative" as defined in section 4928.01 of the Revised Code or a company that is owned by, and operated exclusively for, its customers to supply those customers with natural gas for lighting, power, or heating purposes.

"Landlord" and "tenant" have the same meanings as in section 5321.01 of the Revised Code.

"Manufactured home park lot" means a lot in a "manufactured home park" as that term is defined in section 4781.01 of the Revised Code.

"Owner," "park operator," and "tenant" have the same meanings as in section 4781.01 of the Revised Code.

"Propane supply company" means a company that supplies
customers with propane for lighting, power, or heating purposes.

"Public utility" means a telephone company, electric light company, natural gas company, pipe-line company, water-works company, heating or cooling company, or sewage disposal system company as defined under section 4905.03 of the Revised Code that is a public utility under section 4905.02 of the Revised Code.

"Residential premises" has the same meaning as in section 5321.01 of the Revised Code, except that the term does not include a dwelling unit owned or operated by a college or university.

"Submetering company" means any person that charges an amount for electric, natural gas, water-works, or sewage services to a residential consumer as measured through one or more submeters and the total amount charged for all components of the service is greater, on a monthly basis than the total amount at which the service was purchased from a public utility or unregulated utility.

"Unregulated utility" means a telephone company, electric light company, natural gas company, pipe-line company, water-works company, heating or cooling company, or sewage disposal system company as defined under section 4905.03 of the Revised Code that is excepted from being included as a public utility under section 4905.02 of the Revised Code or that is not subject to regulation by the public utilities commission. "Unregulated utility" does not include a cooperative or submetering company.

"Utility service" means the service provided by a cooperative, propane supply company, public utility, submetering company, or unregulated utility.
"State of emergency" means the period of the emergency declared under Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020.

(B)(1) Except as provided in division (B)(3) of this section, a cooperative, propane supply company, public utility, submetering company, or unregulated utility shall not do either of the following until six months after the state of emergency terminates:

(a) Curtail, disrupt, or disconnect utility service;

(b) Take any action that would effectively lead to or cause curtailment, disruption, or disconnection of utility service.

(2) Neither of the following shall take the actions described in division (B)(1)(a) or (b) of this section until six months after the state of emergency terminates:

(a) A landlord with respect to the residential premises of a tenant;

(b) A park operator with respect to a manufactured home park lot occupied by a park tenant or owner.

(3) A cooperative, propane supply company, public utility, submetering company, or unregulated utility may take the actions described in division (B)(1)(a) or (b) of this section to prevent or resolve a presently or imminently hazardous situation or on the request of the customer.

Section 2. This act is an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to prevent utility service curtailment, disruption, or disconnection due to unpaid
utility service bills, which bills are unpaid because of unemployment or underemployment caused by the restrictions and other precautions imposed as part of the state of emergency regarding COVID-19. Therefore, this act shall go into immediate effect.