

SENATE, No. 4755

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator OWEN HENRY
District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires electric public utilities to conduct wellness checks in age-restricted communities during power outages.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning wellness checks in certain communities during
2 power outages and supplementing Title 48 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 “Age-restricted community” means a planned real estate
10 development, as defined in section 3 of P.L.1977, c.419 (C.45:22A-
11 23), consisting of dwelling units governed by a common set of
12 rules, regulations, or restrictions intended and operated for persons
13 55 years of age or older.

14 “Electric public utility” or “utility” means a public utility, as that
15 term is defined in R.S.48:2-13, that distributes electricity to end
16 users within this State.

17 “Medical device” means any device as defined in subsection (h)
18 of 21 U.S.C. s.321 for use by a person.

19 “Power outage” means a disruption in service provided by an
20 electric public utility.

21 “Powered medical device” means any medical device that
22 requires electricity to operate and is necessary for sustaining the
23 health and safety of a person. “Powered medical device” includes,
24 but is not limited to, oxygen concentrators, ventilators, and dialysis
25 machines.

26 “Wellness check” means a visit or telephone call conducted by a
27 law enforcement officer, social worker, or designated caregiver to
28 ensure that a person who relies on a powered medical device is safe
29 and is able to use the powered medical device, if necessary.

30 b. In the event of a power outage, the utility responsible for
31 providing the electric service interrupted by the power outage shall,
32 on a daily basis until the resolution of the power outage:

33 (1) in coordination with county officials if applicable, identify
34 and maintain a confidential registry of residents in age-restricted
35 communities who rely on powered medical devices, which registry
36 shall be updated at least annually;

37 (2) within one hour of the onset of a power outage, prioritize the
38 restoration of power to those individuals on the registry created
39 pursuant to this section; and

40 (3) if restoration of power is not possible within four hours of
41 the onset of the power outage:

42 (a) conduct or cause to be conducted a wellness check on
43 individuals listed in the registry created pursuant to this section,
44 ensuring the individuals have access to backup power or alternative
45 accommodations; and

46 (b) if after conducting a wellness check, the utility knows that a
47 person listed in the registry created pursuant to this section does not
48 have access to backup power or alternative accommodations,

1 provide backup power supplies, such as portable generators or
2 battery packs, or assist in relocating individuals to facilities with
3 power if necessary.

4 c. Electric public utilities shall collaborate with county
5 officials, local emergency services, healthcare providers, and
6 community organizations to ensure the wellness checks meet the
7 requirements of this section.

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9 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 This bill requires, in the event of a power outage, the electric
15 public utility (utility) responsible for providing the electric service
16 interrupted by the power outage to conduct or cause to be conducted
17 a wellness check on persons with powered medical devices in
18 affected age-restricted communities in collaboration with county
19 officials, if applicable, until the resolution of the power outage.

20 Under the bill, utilities, in coordination with county officials if
21 applicable, are required to identify and maintain a confidential
22 registry of residents in age-restricted communities who rely on
23 powered medical devices. This registry is required to be updated at
24 least annually. Additionally, within one hour of the onset of a
25 power outage, the utility is required to prioritize the restoration of
26 power to those individuals on the registry created pursuant to the
27 bill.

28 If restoration of power is not possible within four hours, the
29 utility is required to: (1) conduct or cause to be conducted a
30 wellness check on individuals listed in the registry to ensure the
31 individuals have access to backup power or alternative
32 accommodations; and (2) if after conducting a wellness check, the
33 utility knows that a person listed in the registry does not have
34 access to backup power or alternative accommodations, the utility is
35 required to provide backup power supplies, such as portable
36 generators or battery packs, or assist in relocating individuals to
37 facilities with power if necessary.

38 The bill requires utilities to collaborate with county officials,
39 local emergency services, healthcare providers, and community
40 organizations to ensure the wellness checks meet the requirements
41 of the bill.