

SENATE, No. 4756

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 develop service restoration plans for certain communities on well water or septic systems.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT requiring electric public utilities to prioritize certain
2 communities on well water or septic systems and amending and
3 supplementing P.L.2021, c.29.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.29 (C.48:7-26) is amended as
9 follows:

10 1. As used in P.L.2021, c.29 (C.48:7-26 et seq.):

11 "Assisted living facility" means an assisted living residence or
12 comprehensive personal care home licensed pursuant to P.L.1971,
13 c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).

14 "Board" means the Board of Public Utilities or any successor
15 agency.

16 "DNA" means deoxyribonucleic acid.

17 "Electric public utility" means a public utility, as that term is
18 defined in R.S.48:2-13, that transmits and distributes electricity to
19 end users within this State.

20 "Extended power outage" means an electric power outage lasting
21 more than 24 hours.

22 "Facility" means an assisted living facility; hospital; chronic or
23 acute renal dialysis facility; clinical or research laboratory or
24 institute that stores human blood, other human tissue, or human
25 DNA; or nursing home.

26 "Hospital" means hospital licensed pursuant to P.L.1971 c.136
27 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).

28 "Major event" means a natural or humanly caused occurrence
29 arising from conditions beyond the control of the utility, including,
30 but not limited to, a terrorist attack, thunderstorm, tornado,
31 hurricane, flood, heat wave, snow storm, ice storm, or earthquake,
32 which results in:

33 a. a sustained interruption of electric public utility service to at
34 least 10 percent of the customers in an operating area or 10 percent
35 of a utility's customers within a municipality or county located in an
36 operating area; or

37 b. the declaration of a state of emergency or disaster by the
38 State or by the federal government.

39 "Nursing home" means a nursing home licensed pursuant to
40 P.L.1971 c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).

41 "Priority service restoration" means prioritizing electric power
42 service restoration to certain facilities essential to the public
43 welfare, including private well water and septic communities.

44 "Private well water and septic community" or "community"
45 means a municipality within the utility's service territory where at

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 least 40 percent of electric public utility residential customers rely
2 on private well water at the customer's residence.

3 "Sustained interruption" means the cessation of electric public
4 utility service to one or more customers lasting more than 12
5 consecutive hours after the conclusion of a major event where the
6 utility service cessation was caused by that major event.

7 (cf: P.L.2021, c.29, s. 1.)

8
9 2. (New section) a. The board shall require electric public
10 utilities to identify private well water and septic communities and
11 develop a priority service restoration plan for each community in
12 the event of a sustained interruption. The board shall require the
13 priority service restoration plans to include provisions that provide
14 at least one watering station, which shall include, but not be limited
15 to, bottled water, at least one water tanker truck, and any other
16 water resource in accordance with the community's needs, including
17 water for livestock, to a community after a sustained interruption.

18 b. Each electric public utility shall submit a priority service
19 restoration plan to the board within one year of the effective date of
20 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
21 and the board shall post all priority service restoration plans upon
22 board's website.

23
24 3. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after the date of
25 enactment, but the Board of Public Utilities may take any
26 anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be
27 necessary for the timely implementation of P.L. , c. (C.)
28 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

31 STATEMENT

32
33 This bill requires the Board of Public Utilities (board) to require
34 an electric public utility to identify each private well water and
35 septic community within the utility's service territory and to
36 develop a priority service restoration plan for each community in
37 the event of a sustained interruption of an electrical public utility's
38 service following a major event. The bill further requires the
39 priority service restoration plans to include at least one watering
40 station, at least one water tanker truck, and any other water resource
41 in accordance with the community's needs. The bill also requires
42 each electric public utility to provide all priority service restoration
43 plans within one year of the effective date of this bill. Finally, this
44 bill requires the board to post all priority service restoration plans
45 upon the Internet website of the board.

46 The purpose of this bill is for these communities to receive the
47 same service restoration as other facilities, which is essential to the
48 general public welfare. Because private well water and septic

- 1 communities are exceptionally susceptible to negative health
- 2 outcomes in the event of a disruption, it is the sponsor's intent that
- 3 these communities' needs are addressed in a timely manner.