

## House Bill 258

By: Representatives Stallings of the 100<sup>th</sup>, West of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Greene of the 158<sup>th</sup> and Houston of the 166<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Article 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, known as the "Natural Gas Competition and Deregulation Act," so as to provide that in any case where there is a dispute between a marketer and a retail customer concerning the amount of a gas bill, the marketer shall be required to meet with the retail customer to attempt to resolve such dispute; to provide that the marketer shall be prohibited from reporting the name of a retail customer to any consumer reporting agency until the marketer has made a good faith effort to meet with the retail customer and has obtained a judgment against the retail customer; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Article 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, known as the "Natural Gas Competition and Deregulation Act," is amended by adding between Code Sections 46-4-160 and 46-4-161 a new Code Section 46-4-160.1 to read as follows:

"46-4-160.1.

In any case where there is a dispute between a marketer and a retail customer concerning the amount of a gas bill, the marketer shall be required to meet with the retail customer to attempt to resolve such dispute. The marketer shall be prohibited from reporting the name of a retail customer to any consumer reporting agency as defined in Section 603(f) of the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act until the marketer has made a good faith effort to meet with the retail customer and has obtained a judgment against the retail customer."

**SECTION 2.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.