

House Bill 311

By: Representatives Lucas of the 105th, Rogers of the 20th, Wix of the 33rd, Post 1, Skipper of the 116th and Burkhalter of the 36th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public utilities and public transportation, so as to provide for payment centers for electric utilities, certificated marketers of natural gas, the regulated provider of natural gas, and local telephone exchange companies; to provide for minimum requirements for such payment centers; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public utilities and public transportation, is amended in Chapter 2A, relating to electric utilities generally, by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code Section 46-2A-3 to read as follows:

"46-2A-3.

Each electric utility shall provide a center for accepting payments from retail customers in every county with a population of 50,000 or more where the electric utility has one or more retail customers. Each payment center shall include at least one electronic connection for transmitting information to the utility regarding payments received and at least one telephone directly linked to the electric utility for the use of retail customers."

SECTION 2.

Said title is further amended in Chapter 4, relating to distribution, storage, and sale of gas, by inserting a new Code section to be designated Code Section 46-4-158.6 to read as follows:

"46-4-158.6.

(a) Each certificated marketer shall provide a center for accepting payments from retail customers in every county with a population of 50,000 or more where the marketer has one or more retail customers that receive primarily firm service of natural gas. Each payment center shall include at least one electronic connection for transmitting information to the marketer or the provider of billing services to the marketer regarding payments received

1 and at least one telephone directly linked to the marketer or the marketer's provider of
2 customer service for the use of retail customers.

3 (b) Each regulated provider of natural gas shall provide a center for accepting payments
4 from retail customers in every county with a population of 50,000 or more where the
5 regulated provider has one or more retail customers that receive primarily firm service of
6 natural gas. Each payment center shall include at least one electronic connection for
7 transmitting information to the regulated provider or the provider of billing services to the
8 regulated provider regarding payments received and at least one telephone directly linked
9 to the regulated provider or the regulated provider's provider of customer service for the
10 use of retail customers."

11 **SECTION 3.**

12 Said title is further amended in Chapter 5, relating to telephone and telegraph service, by
13 inserting a new Code section to be designated Code Section 46-5-175 to read as follows:

14 "46-5-175.

15 Each local exchange company shall provide a center for accepting payments from retail
16 customers in every county with a population of 50,000 or more where the local exchange
17 company has one or more retail customers. Each payment center shall include at least one
18 electronic connection for transmitting information to the local exchange company
19 regarding payments received and at least one telephone directly linked to the local
20 exchange company for the use of retail customers."

21 **SECTION 4.**

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