

Senate Bill 185

By: Senator Thomas of the 2nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 known as the "Natural Gas Competition and Deregulation Act," so as to provide that a
3 marketer shall be prohibited from discontinuing service to persons 65 years of age or older
4 or to persons with physical or mental disabilities for nonpayment of bills during any winter
5 heating season and the 30 days immediately following such winter heating season; to provide
6 an exception; to provide that prior to August 1, 2003, a marketer shall file with the
7 commission the price per therm to be charged to retail customers which price shall not be
8 increased more than \$.50 during any three-year period unless any additional increase is
9 authorized by the commission pursuant to an emergency in accordance with procedures
10 provided in Code Section 46-2-25; to provide that a marketer shall be prohibited from
11 charging a retail customer for any pamphlets, inserts, or other publications designed to
12 educate its customers or the general public with respect to pricing, services, or other matters
13 relating to the distribution of natural gas in this state; to remove a provision relating to
14 estimated bills; to provide that a marketer shall be prohibited from charging a retail customer
15 for the delivery of natural gas during any period unless the marketer determines the amount
16 of gas actually consumed by the customer for such period from the customer's gas meter; to
17 provide civil penalties for violations of certain provisions of this Act; to provide for related
18 matters; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

19 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

20 **SECTION 1.**

21 Article 5 of Chapter 4 of Title 46 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, known as the
22 "Natural Gas Competition and Deregulation Act," is amended in Code Section 46-4-158.2,
23 relating to rules governing a marketer's terms of service, by striking paragraphs (7), (8), and
24 (9) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1 "46-4-160.6.

2 (a) A marketer shall be prohibited from charging a retail customer for the delivery of
3 natural gas during any period unless the marketer determines the amount of gas actually
4 consumed by the customer for such period from the customer's gas meter.

5 (b) Any marketer which willfully violates any provision of subsection (a) of this Code
6 section shall be liable for any penalties authorized under Code Section 46-2-91."

7 **SECTION 4.**

8 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
9 without such approval.

10 **SECTION 5.**

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