

House Enrolled Act 1002

House Enrolled Act 1002 (HEA 1002) makes significant changes to Indiana's electric utility regulatory framework, addressing affordability, disconnection protections, rate case procedures, performance-based ratemaking, and low-income assistance programs.

For Indiana's electric cooperatives, this law contains a mix of directly applicable provisions and provisions that apply only to utilities under the jurisdiction of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. The most significant cooperative-applicable provision is the expansion of disconnection protections in Section 5 (IC § 8-1-2-121), which introduces new heat index-based summer protections that apply to cooperatively owned utilities effective immediately and requires additional website information by June 1, 2026.

Disconnection Protections (Ind. Code § 8-1-2-121)

Overview of Requirements

HEA 1002 significantly expands disconnection protections for residential customers of all electric utilities, including cooperatives. The new provisions maintain the existing winter moratorium period, add heat index-based summer protections, and require website publication of assistance program information.

(EXISTING) Winter Moratorium (December 1 – March 15)

A cooperative may not disconnect residential electric service between December 1 and March 15 if the customer has applied for, or is receiving, heating assistance from the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) administered by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) and local community action agencies. The customer must have applied for or be receiving such assistance to qualify for the moratorium protection.

(NEW) Heat Index-based Summer Disconnection Prohibition

A cooperative may not disconnect residential electric service for any customer who is eligible for and applied for LIHEAP assistance in the current calendar year on any day when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a forecast indicating the heat index at the customer's service address will reach or exceed 95°F within the next 48 hours.

If a cooperative has issued a notice of disconnection to an eligible customer and the disconnection day falls on a day that meets or exceeds the heat index threshold, the disconnection must be tolled until the first day on which the heat index threshold is not forecasted to reach 95°F.

Assistance Information

Dubois REC's energy assistance webpage at [Energy Assistance Information](#).

IHCDA's website for LIHEAP can be found at <https://www.in.gov/ihcda/homeowners-and-renters/lowincome-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap/>.