

Pre-Payment Meters (Self-Disconnection) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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Require energy companies to allow a grace period before disconnecting customers with pre-payment meters who have run out of credit; to require energy companies to offer debt management support to all customers; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Disconnection of customers with pre-payment meters

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations require any supplier of gas and electricity to a domestic customer to allow a grace period before disconnecting the supply of gas or electricity to any such customer who—
 - (a) takes their supply of gas or electricity through a prepayment meter installed by an authorised supplier, and 5
 - (b) has no credit in that pre-payment meter.
- (2) Regulations made under this section must—
 - (a) provide for a grace period of no less than six months;
 - (b) permit the supplier to agree in a particular case to extend the grace period allowed. 10
- (3) Regulations under this section are to be made by statutory instrument.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament. 15

2 Debt management support for energy customers

- (1) The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (“the Authority”) must modify the standard supply licence conditions so that they include conditions (“debt management support conditions”) that impose a requirement on the holders of supply licences for the supply of gas or electricity under domestic supply contracts to offer debt management support to all domestic customers. 20
- (2) Debt management support conditions must make specific provision for customers with pre-payment meters.

- (3) Debt management support conditions may include requirements to—
- (a) set debt repayment rates that are based on the customer’s ability to pay,
 - (b) offer specific support to customers who have been identified as being vulnerable,
 - (c) make customers aware of debt advice services,
 - (d) provide appropriate channels for customers to raise concerns about their ability to repay debts.

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3 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales and Scotland.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Pre-Payment Meters (Self-Disconnection) Act 2023.

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