

Electricity Supply (Vulnerable Customers) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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Require Ofgem to amend the conditions of an electricity supply licence in relation to vulnerable customers; to require Ofgem to establish a fund for the purpose of rectifying dangerous electrical faults for vulnerable customers; to require energy supply companies to inform vulnerable customers about the services available to customers on the Priority Services Register; 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 Amendment of electricity supply licence conditions

- (1) Within six months of the passing of this Act, the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (“the Authority”) must amend the licence conditions of suppliers of electricity as specified in subsection (2).
- (2) The amendments referred to in subsection (1) are that electricity suppliers shall be required to—
 - (a) provide, free of charge, electrical installation checks carried out by a registered and competent person to any customer on that supplier's Priority Services Register; and
 - (b) take reasonable steps to—
 - (i) identify vulnerable customers who are not currently on the Priority Services Register but who are entitled to be; and
 - (ii) inform those customers of the provisions of this Act.

2 Fund for rectification of electrical faults

- (1) *The Authority must by regulations establish a fund for the purpose of rectifying dangerous electrical faults identified by checks carried out under the provisions of section 1.*
- (2) *Regulations under subsection (1) may—*
 - (a) *require electricity suppliers or other persons to make contributions to that fund,*
 - (b) *make provision about the use of the fund,*
 - (c) *make provision about the management of the fund.*

- (3) *A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.*

3 Requirement to inform vulnerable customers about the Priority Services Register 5

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations require electricity suppliers to inform vulnerable customers about the Priority Services Register.
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) may –
- (a) provide for a definition of vulnerable customer,
 - (b) make provision about the format and content of communications. 10
- (3) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (4) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a draft of an instrument containing regulations under this section within six months of the passing of this Act. 15

4 Interpretation

In this Act, “Priority Services Register” means the register required by Condition 26 of the Electricity Supply Licence.

5 Extent, commencement and short title 20

- (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 Electricity Supply (Vulnerable Customers) Act 2023.

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be
Printed, 12th September 2023.

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