FIRST ENGROSSMENT

Sixty-third Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2174

Introduced by

Senators Wardner, Klein, Lyson

Representatives Dockter, N. Johnson, Nathe

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 49-04 of the North Dakota
- 2 Century Code, relating to the requirement that a public utility regulated by the public service
- 3 commission provide advance notification of discontinuance of electric or gas service.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

5 SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 49-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 Notification before discontinuance of utility service.

- A public utility shall provide notice to a customer of the utility's intention to discontinue
 utility service for payment delinquency in accordance with commission rules.
- 10 <u>2.</u> <u>A public utility shall provide notice to a third party designated by a customer of the</u>
- 11 <u>utility's intention to discontinue electric or natural gas service to the customer for</u>
- 12 payment delinquency. The customer shall designate the third party on a form provided
- 13 by or approved by the public utility. The public utility may elect to provide notice to a
- 14 designated third party by mail or electronic means. Notice by mail must be made not
- 15 less than five days before discontinuance and notice by electronic means must be
- 16 <u>made not less than three days before discontinuance. A public utility is immune from</u>
- 17 <u>civil liability for failing to provide notice or providing incorrect notice to a third party of</u>
- 18 <u>its intention to discontinue utility service to a customer.</u>