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SENATE BILL 141

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Leo Jaramillo and Susan K. Herrera

AN ACT

RELATING TO GAS; PROVIDING AN EMERGENCY EXCEPTION TO WHO MAY
FILL AN OWNER'S LP GAS CONTAINER; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 70-5-23 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993,
Chapter 186, Section 20) is amended to read:

"70-5-23. CONTAINERS TO BE FILLED ONLY BY OWNER OR UPON
THE OWNER'S AUTHORIZATION--EMERGENCY EXCEPTION--LIST OF
CUSTOMERS.--[Any]

A. As used in this section:

(1) "emergency" means a situation in which the
state, a county or municipality or a tribal government issues a
declaration finding in whole or in part that a lack of LP gas
for heating, cooling or refrigeration is endangering customers'
health or safety; and

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1 (2) "LP gas dispenser" means a person that
2 delivers LP gas to an ultimate consumer for consumption only.

3 B. Except as provided in Subsection C of this
4 section, an LP gas container shall be filled only by the owner
5 or upon the owner's authorization.

6 C. When the bureau receives customer complaints
7 about nondelivery of LP gas, the bureau shall contact the LP
8 gas dispenser to determine the reason for the nondelivery and
9 shall work with the LP gas dispenser to ensure timely delivery
10 to customers. In an emergency, the bureau may require the LP
11 gas dispenser that owns the containers used by customers to
12 deliver LP gas within twenty-four hours or authorize one or
13 more other LP gas dispensers to deliver and fill the owner's
14 containers that are leased to customers; provided that if there
15 is not enough LP gas to fill all containers, the bureau and the
16 LP gas dispensers shall determine priorities and proportional
17 deliveries, as appropriate. The LP gas dispenser shall provide
18 its customer list to the bureau and the delivering LP gas
19 dispenser. The customer list is not a public document subject
20 to the provisions of the Inspection of Public Records Act.

21 D. If a container holds LP gas for which a customer
22 has paid either the owner or another dispenser, the owner of
23 the container shall not remove the fuel or remove the container
24 from a customer's premises without paying the customer the fair
25 market price of the LP gas."

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SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.