



EvictionsUnlimited

RESPONSIBLE UTILITY CUSTOMER PROTECTION ACT

On November 30, 2004, the Governor of Pennsylvania signed into law SB677, also known as Act 201. This law went into effect on December 14, 2004. The Act amended Title 66 of the Pennsylvania Code by adding Chapter 14, which has been identified as the **Responsible Utility Customer Protection Act**.

The official position of PGW and the Governor is that the Act is intended to protect responsible bill paying customers from rate increases attributable to the uncollectible accounts of customers that can afford to pay their bills, but chose not to pay. The reality, however, is that this Act will have a great impact on landlords in Pennsylvania as it will allow the utility to place a lien against the property for any unpaid gas bills by a tenant.

PGW will soon be implementing a one year pilot program to work with landlords before implementing liens against the property. The program asks that landlords contact PGW in order to register their properties and provide information about their tenants. The landlord is then required to cooperate with PGW relative to any/all collection efforts initiated against the tenants.

A representative of Evictions Unlimited has spoken with a representative of PGW and it has been stated that property liens will NOT begin before AUGUST 2006 and any liens placed thereafter will only be for services after that date.

For additional information relative to this very important legislation, please contact Evictions Unlimited at 215.288.8049.