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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**EIGHTY-SIXTH  
SESSION**

**HOUSE FILE No. 537**

February 5, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor

March 2, 2009

By motion, recalled and re-referred to the Energy Finance and Policy Division

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to consumer protection; establishing criteria for timely utility payments;  
1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 216B.098, by adding a subdivision.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 216B.098, is amended by adding a  
1.6 subdivision to read:

1.7 Subd. 4a. **Timely payments.** A public utility using an out-of-state payment site  
1.8 shall consider the date immediately following the postmark date of a payment sent in the  
1.9 mail or the date of an electronic payment as an on-time payment. A public utility may  
1.10 not send a disconnection notice to a residential consumer if the payment is received less  
1.11 than 31 days past the due date.

1.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.