



Chairman Phil Mendelson

AMENDMENT

B25-89, "Protecting Consumers from Unjust Debt Collection Practices Technical Clarification Emergency Amendment Act of 2023"

B25-90, "Protecting Consumers from Unjust Debt Collection Practices Technical Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"

February 7, 2023

Amendment:

Section 2 is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (a) on line 23 is redesignated as subsection (a-1).

(b) A new subsection (a) is added to read as follows:

“(a) Subsection (a) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) This section applies to conduct and practices in connection with the collection of obligations arising from any consumer debt (other than a loan directly secured on real estate or a direct motor vehicle installment loan covered by Chapter 36 of this title); **provided, that this section shall apply to public utilities as of May 2, 2023.**”

Rationale: The “Protecting Consumers from Unjust Debt Collection Practices Amendment Act of 2022” (D.C. Law 24-154) became effective on January 1, 2023. The law modernized and strengthened the District’s debt collection law in numerous ways. Through discussions with public utilities, it became clear that there was confusion as to how the law interacts with regulations adopted by the Public Service Commission that prescribe how utilities must engage with customers prior to a disconnection or in connection with collecting a debt. Additionally, public utilities are still in the process of understanding what changes need to be made to their materials and systems to comply with the law. To ensure that public utilities have enough time to modify their materials, systems, and other policies in accordance with the law, this amendment would delay applicability of the debt collection law to public utilities until May 2, 2023.