



# The Henry Shelton Act

**FOR LOW-INCOME UTILITY CONSUMERS  
60% FORGIVEN ON TOTAL BALANCE OWED**

The **Henry Shelton Act** was signed into Rhode Island law in 2011. It is named after Henry Shelton, founder of the **George Wiley Center**, a grassroots group that for decades has advocated for the rights of low-income utility consumers and fought for the basic necessity of affordable utility service.

The Henry Shelton Act mandates a debt forgiveness program to allow 60% forgiveness on the total balance owed for LIHEAP eligible (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) utility consumers. If your utility service (gas or electric) has been or is scheduled to be terminated and you have a high total balance owed, you may qualify for the **Henry Shelton Arrears Forgiveness Payment Plan**. Contact your local Community Action Agency to find out if your household is LIHEAP eligible, to enroll in the Henry Shelton Plan by paying 10% down and 40% of the remaining total over 3 years, with 60% forgiveness occurring upon completion of the program. It is only available **ONE TIME** (once for gas, once for electric), with other requirements (see back side), but is a great opportunity if able to be used. The Act also protects LIHEAP households from shut-offs if the total balance owed is under \$300.

The Henry Shelton Act established the **Ratepayers Advisory Board**, a group of representatives from various sectors, including low-income consumers. Open monthly meetings are held, with public comment welcome, to raise concerns and discuss utility-related issues.

**For more information and ways to get involved** in our efforts to improve utility access in Rhode Island, please contact the **George Wiley Center**:

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office: 401-728-5555

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## Details of the Henry Shelton Forgiveness Payment Plan:

- **Available to LIHEAP eligible households** (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) in Rhode Island. Contact your local Community Action Agency to find out if you qualify for LIHEAP and the Henry Shelton Plan.
- **If you are shut off or facing shut-off, get restored or maintain** gas and electric service by using this program.
- Allows **10% down payment of total utility bill owed**, to enroll in program.
- Offers **60% forgiveness of total outstanding utility bill**, upon completion of 3 year payment program.
- **One time offer (once for gas, once for electric), with requirements** for payments, to stay enrolled in the program. Monthly payments must be made on time (including current usage), and only 2 payments in a row and 3 payments total may be missed over the 3 year enrollment period (missed payments must be re-paid). If more than 3 payments are missed, you will be un-enrolled and ineligible to re-enroll.

*Although this is the best payment/ forgiveness plan available, it is important to be aware of the above details, since the Henry Shelton Plan may only be used one time per utility account. Check with National Grid for your account information.*

### Henry Shelton Plan WORKSHEET (check with National Grid for changes):

Total Utility Bill Owed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ x .10 (multiply by ten percent)  
= \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Down Payment

Total Utility Bill Owed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - (subtract) Down Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
= \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Remaining Balance

Remaining Balance \$ \_\_\_\_\_ x .40 (multiply by forty percent)  
= \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due Obligation

Total Due Obligation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ÷ 36 (divide by 36 months)  
= \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total monthly, for 36 months (+ current bill)