

1987 Assembly Bill 163

Date of enactment: **November 25, 1987**

Date of publication: **December 7, 1987**

1987 Wisconsin Act 102

AN ACT to create 134.81, 196.373 and 704.06 of the statutes, relating to water heater thermostat settings.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 134.81 of the statutes is created to read:

134.81 Water heater thermostat settings. No person who manufactures water heaters may sell any new water heater designed for use in a dwelling unit, as defined in s. 101.61 (1), unless that person does all of the following:

(1) Sets the thermostat of the water heater at no higher than 125 degrees Fahrenheit or at the minimum setting of that water heater if the minimum setting is higher than 125 degrees Fahrenheit.

(2) Attaches a plainly visible notice to the water heater warning that any thermostat setting above 125 degrees Fahrenheit may cause severe burns and consume energy unnecessarily.

SECTION 2. 196.373 of the statutes is created to read:

196.373 Water heater thermostat settings. (1) In this section:

(a) "Periodic customer billing" means a demand for payment of utility services by a public utility to a residential utility consumer on a monthly or other regular basis.

(b) "Residential utility consumer" means any individual who lives in a dwelling which is located in this state and which is furnished with a utility service by a public utility. "Residential utility consumer" includes, but is not limited to, an individual engaged in farming as defined under s. 102.04 (3).

(2) At least annually every public utility furnishing gas or electricity shall include in its periodic customer billing a statement recommending that water heater thermostats be set no higher than 125 degrees Fahrenheit in order to prevent severe burns and unnecessary energy consumption.

SECTION 3. 704.06 of the statutes is created to read:

704.06 Water heater thermostat settings. A landlord of premises which are subject to a residential tenancy and served by a water heater serving only that premises shall set the thermostat of that water heater at no higher than 125 degrees Fahrenheit before any new tenant occupies that premises or at the minimum setting of that water heater if the minimum setting is higher than 125 degrees Fahrenheit.

SECTION 4. **Effective date.** This act takes effect on the first day of the 6th month following publication.