

MAR 1 2006  
COMMERCE, REGULATION & LABOR

HOUSE FILE 2598  
BY FALLON

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for implementation of an emergency assistance  
2 program and making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24

HF 2598

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 234.15 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE  
2 PROGRAM.

3 1. The department of human services shall implement an  
4 emergency assistance program to assist low-income persons who  
5 face eviction, potential eviction, or foreclosure, utility  
6 shutoff or fuel shortage, loss of heating energy supply or  
7 equipment, homelessness, utility or rental deposits that  
8 cannot be paid, or other crisis specified in rule which  
9 threatens family or living arrangements. The program shall  
10 provide assistance as a last resort and shall not supplant  
11 assistance provided by the low-income home energy assistance  
12 program, county general relief, veterans affairs programs, or  
13 other programs directed to the same population.

14 2. The department shall establish by rule a maximum  
15 assistance payment per family in a twelve-month period. The  
16 initial maximum payment shall be five hundred dollars. The  
17 emergency assistance shall be available to migrant families  
18 who would otherwise meet eligibility criteria. The department  
19 may contract for the administration and delivery of the  
20 program.

21 3. Provision of assistance under the program is not an  
22 entitlement and shall be terminated when funds are exhausted.  
23 Unless the department adopts rules providing for a different  
24 implementation date, the program shall commence operation on  
25 October 1 of each year and continue until provision of  
26 assistance is terminated.

27 4. a. The department shall provide a process for the  
28 state to receive refunds of utility and rent deposits,  
29 including any accrued interest, for emergency assistance  
30 recipients which were paid by persons other than the state.  
31 The department shall also receive refunds, including any  
32 accrued interest, of deposits paid with funding available  
33 under the emergency assistance program.

34 b. The refunds received by the department under this  
35 subsection are appropriated to the department to be used as

1 additional funds for the program. Notwithstanding section  
2 8.33, moneys received by the department under this subsection  
3 which remain after assistance for a fiscal year is terminated  
4 and state or federal moneys in the emergency assistance  
5 account which remain unobligated or unexpended at the close of  
6 a fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for  
7 expenditure when the program resumes operation in the  
8 succeeding fiscal year.

9 Sec. 2. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. There is  
10 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the  
11 department of human services for the fiscal year beginning  
12 July 1, 2006, and ending June 30, 2007, the following amount,  
13 or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose  
14 designated:

15 For the emergency assistance program implemented in  
16 accordance with section 234.15, as enacted by this Act:  
17 ..... \$ 1,000,000

18 Sec. 3. EMERGENCY RULES.

19 1. The department of human services may adopt  
20 administrative rules under section 17A.4, subsection 2, and  
21 section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b", to implement the  
22 provisions of this Act and the rules shall become effective  
23 immediately upon filing or on a later effective date specified  
24 in the rules, unless the effective date is delayed by the  
25 administrative rules review committee. Any rules adopted in  
26 accordance with this section shall not take effect before the  
27 rules are reviewed by the administrative rules review  
28 committee. The delay authority provided to the administrative  
29 rules review committee under section 17A.4, subsection 5, and  
30 section 17A.8, subsection 9, shall be applicable to a delay  
31 imposed under this section, notwithstanding a provision in  
32 those sections making them inapplicable to section 17A.5,  
33 subsection 2, paragraph "b". Any rules adopted in accordance  
34 with the provisions of this section shall also be published as  
35 notice of intended action as provided in section 17A.4.

