

# Senate Study Bill 1123

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND WEATHERIZATION  
PROGRAM STUDY COMMITTEE BILL)

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

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an energy utility assessment and resolution  
2 program for certain persons with low incomes who have or need  
3 a deferred payment agreement to address home energy utility  
4 costs and making an appropriation.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
6 TLSB 1064IC 82  
7 jp/sh/8

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1 1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 216A.104 ENERGY UTILITY  
1 2 ASSESSMENT AND RESOLUTION PROGRAM.  
1 3 1. The general assembly finds that provision of assistance  
1 4 to prevent utility disconnections will also prevent the  
1 5 development of public health risks due to such disconnections.  
1 6 The division shall establish an energy utility assessment and  
1 7 resolution program administered by each community action  
1 8 agency for persons with low incomes who have or need a  
1 9 deferred payment agreement or are in need of an emergency fuel  
1 10 delivery to address home energy utility costs.  
1 11 2. A person must meet all of the following requirements to  
1 12 be eligible for the program:  
1 13 a. The person is eligible for the federal low-income home  
1 14 energy assistance program.  
1 15 b. The person is a residential customer of an energy  
1 16 utility approved for the program by the division.  
1 17 c. The person has or is in need of a deferred payment  
1 18 agreement to address the person's home energy utility costs.  
1 19 d. The person is able to maintain or regain residential  
1 20 energy utility service in the person's own name.  
1 21 e. The person provides the information necessary to  
1 22 determine the person's eligibility for the program.  
1 23 f. The person complies with other eligibility requirements  
1 24 adopted in rules by the division.  
1 25 3. The program components shall include but are not  
1 26 limited to all of the following:  
1 27 a. Analysis of a program participant's current financial  
1 28 situation.  
1 29 b. Review of a program participant's resource and money  
1 30 management options.  
1 31 c. Skills development and assistance for a program  
1 32 participant in negotiating a deferred payment agreement with  
1 33 the participant's energy utility.  
1 34 d. Development of a written household energy affordability  
1 35 plan.  
2 1 e. Provision of energy conservation training and  
2 2 assistance.  
2 3 f. A requirement that a program participant must make  
2 4 uninterrupted, regular utility payments while participating in  
2 5 the program.  
2 6 4. The division shall implement accountability measures  
2 7 for the program and require regular reporting on the measures  
2 8 by the community action agencies.  
2 9 5. The division shall implement the program statewide,  
2 10 subject to the funding made available for the program.  
2 11 6. This section is repealed on July 1, 2010.  
2 12 Sec. 2. ENERGY UTILITY ASSESSMENT AND RESOLUTION PROGRAM  
2 13 == APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general fund  
2 14 of the state to the division of community action agencies of  
2 15 the department of human rights for the fiscal year beginning  
2 16 July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008, the following amount,

2 17 or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose  
2 18 designated:

2 19 For implementation of the energy utility assessment and  
2 20 resolution program in accordance with section 216A.104, as  
2 21 enacted by this Act:

2 22 ..... \$ 1,000,000

2 23 EXPLANATION

2 24 This bill creates an energy utility assessment and  
2 25 resolution program for certain persons with low incomes who  
2 26 have or need a deferred payment agreement to address home  
2 27 energy utility costs. The bill establishes a legislative  
2 28 finding that the provision of assistance to prevent utility  
2 29 disconnections will prevent certain public health risks. The  
2 30 program is established in the division of community action  
2 31 agencies of the department of human rights in new Code section  
2 32 216A.104.

2 33 Individual eligibility requirements and program components  
2 34 are specified in the bill. The program is to be administered  
2 35 by each community action agency and each agency must report on  
3 1 accountability measures identified by the division.

3 2 The bill includes an appropriation of \$1 million for fiscal  
3 3 year 2007=2008 to implement the program.

3 4 The program is repealed in three years on July 1, 2010.

3 5 LSB 1064IC 82

3 6 jp:nh/sh/8