

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND WEATHERIZATION
PROGRAM INTERIM 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:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 216A.104 ENERGY UTILITY
2 ASSESSMENT AND RESOLUTION PROGRAM.

3 1. The general assembly finds that provision of assistance
4 to prevent utility disconnections will also prevent the
5 development of public health risks due to such disconnections.
6 The division shall establish an energy utility assessment and
7 resolution program administered by each community action
8 agency for persons with low incomes who have or need a
9 deferred payment agreement or are in need of an emergency fuel
10 delivery to address home energy utility costs.

11 2. A person must meet all of the following requirements to
12 be eligible for the program:

13 a. The person is eligible for the federal low-income home
14 energy assistance program.

15 b. The person is a residential customer of an energy
16 utility approved for the program by the division.

17 c. The person has or is in need of a deferred payment
18 agreement to address the person's home energy utility costs.

19 d. The person is able to maintain or regain residential
20 energy utility service in the person's own name.

21 e. The person provides the information necessary to
22 determine the person's eligibility for the program.

23 f. The person complies with other eligibility requirements
24 adopted in rules by the division.

25 3. The program components shall include but are not
26 limited to all of the following:

27 a. Analysis of a program participant's current financial
28 situation.

29 b. Review of a program participant's resource and money
30 management options.

31 c. Skills development and assistance for a program
32 participant in negotiating a deferred payment agreement with
33 the participant's energy utility.

34 d. Development of a written household energy affordability
35 plan.

1 e. Provision of energy conservation training and
2 assistance.

3 4. The division shall implement accountability measures
4 for the program and require regular reporting on the measures
5 by the community action agencies.

6 5. The division shall implement the program statewide,
7 subject to the funding made available for the program.

8 Sec. 2. ENERGY UTILITY ASSESSMENT AND RESOLUTION PROGRAM
9 -- APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general fund
10 of the state to the division of community action agencies of
11 the department of human rights for the fiscal year beginning
12 July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008, the following amount,
13 or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose
14 designated:

15 For implementation of the energy utility assessment and
16 resolution program in accordance with section 216A.104, as
17 enacted by this Act:

18 \$ 1,000,000

19 EXPLANATION

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

29 Individual eligibility requirements and program components
30 are specified in the bill. The program is to be administered
31 by each community action agency and each agency must report on
32 accountability measures identified by the division.

33 The bill includes an appropriation of \$1 million for fiscal
34 year 2007-2008 to implement the program.

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