

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2216 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY ALLEN, GOODMAN, ARGALL, PHILLIPS, FAIRCHILD,
BELFANTI, ADOLPH, BAKER, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BELARDI, BEYER,
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REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SATHER,
SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, R. STEVENSON,
T. STEVENSON, SURRA, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR,
THOMAS, TIGUE, TRUE, WALKO, WANSACZ, WILT, WRIGHT AND
YOUNGBLOOD, NOVEMBER 14, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, NOVEMBER 14, 2005

AN ACT

1 Providing for State funding for the Low Income Home Energy
2 Assistance Program.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Low Income
7 Home Energy Assistance State Assistance Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative findings.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) Since the creation of LIHEAP in 1981, the
11 Commonwealth has not contributed any State funds to this

1 program.

2 (2) Other states have recognized the need to supplement
3 the Federal funds for home heating energy assistance with
4 state funds.

5 (3) Heating oil and propane gas companies and public
6 utilities that provide electricity and natural gas also
7 recognize the need to contribute funds for energy assistance
8 by their establishment of hardship funds.

9 (4) Because of the rising costs of home heating, the
10 Commonwealth should contribute State funds to supplement
11 LIHEAP in order to provide assistance to those eligible.

12 Section 3. Definitions.

13 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
14 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
15 context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

17 "Department." The Department of Public Welfare of the
18 Commonwealth.

19 "Hardship funds." Funds established by a home energy
20 provider or utility to provide cash assistance to those
21 ratepayers who have exhausted all other resources for payment of
22 electricity, heating oil, natural gas or propane gas bills.

23 "Home energy provider." A heating oil, propane gas company
24 or public utility that provides oil, electricity or natural gas
25 to ratepayers in this Commonwealth.

26 "LIHEAP." The program established by Title XXVI of the
27 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-35, 42
28 U.S.C. § 8621 et seq.) and administered by the Department of
29 Public Welfare.

30 "Ratepayer." A person in whose name a residential service

1 account is listed and who is primarily responsible for payment
2 of a bill rendered for service.

3 Section 4. Commitment.

4 The Commonwealth shall provide funding to LIHEAP equal to the
5 amount contributed by the stockholders, employees and ratepayers
6 of home energy providers to their hardship funds as contained in
7 the most recent data reported to the commission or obtained
8 otherwise.

9 Section 5. Distribution.

10 The money committed to LIHEAP shall be administered by the
11 department in accordance with the cash assistance portion of
12 LIHEAP.

13 Section 20. Effective date.

14 This act shall take effect immediately.