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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 151 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, BREWSTER, FONTANA, COSTA, BOSCOLA,  
TARTAGLIONE, FARNESE, SMITH, WILLIAMS AND BROWNE,  
FEBRUARY 5, 2015

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 5, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 10, 1986 (P.L.1398, No.122), entitled  
2 "An act establishing a special fund for moneys received by  
3 the Commonwealth from resolution of oil overcharge matters;  
4 designating certain low-income energy conservation and  
5 assistance programs for funding from this special fund; and  
6 making appropriations," further providing for administration  
7 of certain energy conservation and assistance programs; and  
8 providing for administration of weatherization services  
9 programs.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 7 of the act of July 10, 1986 (P.L.1398,  
13 No.122), known as the Energy Conservation and Assistance Act, is  
14 amended by adding a subsection to read:

15 Section 7. Administration of certain energy conservation and  
16 assistance programs.

17 \* \* \*

18 (c) Commonwealth energy-saving goals and standards.--The  
19 Department of Environmental Protection shall, in consultation  
20 with the Department of General Services:

21 (1) Establish performance goals for evaluating the

1 efforts of Commonwealth agencies in improving energy-  
2 efficient and energy-saving technologies.

3 (2) Supplement the performance goals with  
4 recommendations on best practices for attaining them.

5 (3) Review Commonwealth building energy standards every  
6 five years.

7 (4) Following a review of Commonwealth building energy  
8 standards, determine whether the standards need to be  
9 upgraded. Standards shall be upgraded to include efficient  
10 and renewable energy measures that are technologically  
11 feasible and economically justified if significant energy  
12 savings would result.

13 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

14 Section 7.1. Administration of weatherization services  
15 programs.

16 (a) Duties of Department of Community and Economic  
17 Development.--The Department of Community and Economic  
18 Development shall have the power and its duty shall be:

19 (1) To develop written policies and procedures for local  
20 agencies that require, at a minimum, adequate documentation  
21 of whether:

22 (i) A local agency's resolution of crisis situations  
23 is handled in a timely manner.

24 (ii) The local agency provided temporary measures  
25 when delays occurred.

26 (2) To require contractors and subcontractors of local  
27 agencies to submit invoices with a detailed breakdown of the  
28 costs of labor and materials.

29 (3) To require local agencies to submit to the  
30 department documentation that a final inspection of

1 weatherization improvements is completed. The documentation  
2 shall include a copy of a quality inspection sheet.

3 (4) To review and approve the procurement and bidding  
4 procedures used by a local agency prior to a contract being  
5 issued by the agency.

6 (5) To monitor local agencies to ensure that the most  
7 at-risk and needy residents of this Commonwealth receive  
8 priority in the provision of weatherization services. To  
9 prioritize households eligible to receive weatherization  
10 services, the department shall develop a point system that  
11 includes, but is not limited to, the following factors:

12 (i) Whether the household is a family with children.

13 (ii) Whether an individual who is elderly or has a  
14 disability is a member of the household.

15 (iii) Whether the services will be provided to a  
16 high energy residential user or a household with a high  
17 energy burden.

18 (6) For the purposes of preventing fraud and abuse and  
19 promoting fairness and efficiency in providing weatherization  
20 services, to create a system to ensure that dwellings  
21 previously provided weatherization services are not  
22 ineligible under 10 CFR 440.18 (relating to allowable  
23 expenditures).

24 (7) To periodically reconcile local agency grant  
25 payments with reported expenditures to reduce the risk of:

26 (i) local agencies overcharging the department; and

27 (ii) waste, fraud and abuse of weatherization  
28 services funds.

29 (8) In cooperation with local agencies, to promote  
30 awareness of weatherization services to eligible residents,

1 in particular those who are most vulnerable and needy.

2 (9) In cooperation with local agencies, to develop a  
3 database to:

4 (i) assess the performance of local agencies; and

5 (ii) determine whether any corrective action is  
6 required to improve weatherization services.

7 (10) To develop guidelines and policies under this  
8 subsection with the goal of ensuring consistency and  
9 compliance with weatherization services requirements.

10 (b) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
11 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
12 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Local agency." A local agency that administers  
14 weatherization services.

15 "Weatherization services." The weatherization services  
16 provided through the programs set forth in paragraphs (4) and  
17 (5) of the definition of "energy conservation and assistance  
18 programs" in section 3 and the program established in section  
19 5(a)(1).

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.