



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**Committee Bill No. 6358**

LCO No. 4885

Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:  
(ET)

**AN ACT IMPROVING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE STATE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (a) of section 16a-41a of the general statutes is repealed  
2 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall submit to the joint  
4 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
5 energy planning and activities, appropriations, and human services the  
6 following on the implementation of the block grant program  
7 authorized under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of  
8 1981, as amended:

9 (1) Not later than August first, annually, a Connecticut energy  
10 assistance program annual plan which establishes guidelines for the  
11 use of funds authorized under the Low-Income Home Energy  
12 Assistance Act of 1981, as amended, and includes the following:

13 (A) Criteria for determining which households are to receive  
14 emergency and weatherization assistance;

15 (B) A description of systems used to ensure referrals to other energy  
16 assistance programs and the taking of simultaneous applications, as  
17 required under section 16a-41;

18 (C) A description of outreach efforts; [and]

19 (D) Estimates of the total number of households eligible for  
20 assistance under the program and the number of households in which  
21 one or more elderly or physically disabled individuals eligible for  
22 assistance reside;

23 (E) An application procedure that utilizes the most recent income  
24 and asset calculation for the recipients of any program administered  
25 by the Department of Social Services to determine the eligibility of an  
26 individual or household for energy assistance, that is automatically  
27 transmitted by the Department of Social Services to the energy  
28 assistance program with the permission of the applicant;

29 (F) An equitable total energy assistance benefit for all eligible  
30 households that are responsible for payment of heating bills,  
31 regardless of the source of heat, that allows a household to designate a  
32 portion of its assistance to cover secondary heating expenses;

33 (G) The provision of energy assistance benefits for all eligible  
34 households that are responsible for payment of heating bills,  
35 regardless of the source of heat, that allows a household to designate a  
36 portion of its assistance to cover any secondary heating expenses of  
37 such household;

38 (H) A methodology for the prioritization of energy assistance  
39 recipients for weatherization assistance funded by the United States  
40 Department of Energy or the state that provides the highest priority to  
41 the lowest income households that have high energy consumption and  
42 households containing a disabled individual or an individual over  
43 sixty years or under six years of age;

44 (I) A description of efforts to coordinate weatherization assistance

45 administered by the Department of Social Services and pursuant to  
46 section 17b-891 and any funds available to assist low-income  
47 households under the programs developed pursuant to section 16-  
48 245m;

49 (J) A description of efforts to coordinate energy and weatherization  
50 assistance administered by the Department of Social Services pursuant  
51 to 16a-245m with any energy and weatherization assistance provided  
52 by private sources such as fuel banks and utility companies;

53 (K) The operation of energy assistance on a year-round basis;

54 (L) A targeting of energy assistance benefits to households based on  
55 the total energy needs of the household;

56 (M) An evaluation of fuel and utility service purchasing  
57 methodologies to reduce costs for fuel and utility service to low-  
58 income households; and

59 (N) The use of energy assistance to leverage benefits for low-income  
60 households, ensuring that necessary energy expenses are affordable on  
61 a year-round basis.

62 (2) Not later than January thirtieth, annually, a report covering the  
63 preceding months of the program year, including:

64 (A) In each community action agency geographic area and  
65 Department of Social Services region, the number of fuel assistance  
66 applications filed, approved and denied, the number of emergency  
67 assistance requests made, approved and denied and the number of  
68 households provided weatherization assistance;

69 (B) In each such area and district, the total amount of fuel,  
70 emergency and weatherization assistance, itemized by such type of  
71 assistance, and total expenditures to date; and

72 (C) For each state-wide office of each state agency administering the

73 program, each community action agency and each Department of  
74 Social Services region, administrative expenses under the program, by  
75 line item, and an estimate of outreach expenditures; and

76 (3) Not later than November first, annually, a report covering the  
77 preceding twelve calendar months, including:

78 (A) In each community action agency geographic area and  
79 Department of Social Services region, (i) seasonal totals for the  
80 categories of data submitted under subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
81 (ii) the number of households receiving fuel assistance in which elderly  
82 or physically disabled individuals reside, and (iii) the average  
83 combined benefit level of fuel, emergency and renter assistance;

84 (B) Types of weatherization assistance provided;

85 (C) Percentage of weatherization assistance provided to tenants;

86 (D) The number of homeowners and tenants whose heat or total  
87 energy costs are not included in their rent receiving fuel and  
88 emergency assistance under the program by benefit level;

89 (E) The number of homeowners and tenants whose heat is included  
90 in their rent and who are receiving assistance, by benefit level; and

91 (F) The number of households receiving assistance, by energy type  
92 and total expenditures for each energy type.

**Statement of Purpose:**

To improve the administration of the energy assistance programs in the state by requiring certain information to be contained in the Connecticut energy assistance program annual plan.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. NARDELLO, 89th Dist.