



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 335

January Session, 2005

House Bill No. 6780

House of Representatives, April 13, 2005

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. VILLANO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 16a-41a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

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; and

23 (E) Design of a basic grant for eligible households that does not
24 discriminate against such households based on the type of energy used
25 for heating;

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

28 (A) In each community action agency geographic area and
29 Department of Social Services region, the number of fuel assistance
30 applications filed, approved and denied, the number of emergency
31 assistance requests made, approved and denied and the number of
32 households provided weatherization assistance;

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

36 (C) For each state-wide office of each state agency administering the
37 program, each community action agency and each Department of
38 Social Services region, administrative expenses under the program, by
39 line item, and an estimate of outreach expenditures; and

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

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

48 (B) Types of weatherization assistance provided;

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

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

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

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

57 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement a program
58 to purchase number two home heating oil at a reduced rate for low-
59 income households participating in the Connecticut energy assistance
60 program and the state-appropriated fuel assistance program. Each
61 agency administering a fuel assistance program shall submit reports,
62 as requested by the commissioner, concerning pricing information
63 from vendors of number two home heating oil participating in the
64 program. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, a
65 vendor's regular retail price per gallon of number two home heating
66 oil, the reduced price per gallon paid by the state for the heating oil,
67 the number of gallons delivered to the state under the program and the
68 total savings under the program due to the purchase of number two
69 home heating oil at a reduced rate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires the Department of Social Services to include in its annual energy assistance program plan a design for a basic grant that does not discriminate on the basis of energy used for heating. Although such a plan may change the pattern of distribution of applicable funds, it does not change the overall state or federal resources dedicated to energy assistance, and therefore has no fiscal impact.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6780

AN ACT CONCERNING LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**SUMMARY:**

By law, the Department of Social Services must submit annually to the legislature an energy assistance program plan establishing guidelines for using federal Low Income Energy Assistance funds. This bill requires that the plan include a design for basic grants that does not discriminate among eligible households based on the types of energy they use for heating. By law, the plan goes to the Appropriations, Energy and Technology, and Human Services committees for approval.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 16 Nay 0

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 15 Nay 2