



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 5524

LCO No. 2006

02006_____ET_

Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT CONCERNING HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 1 of public act 05-2 of the October 25 special
2 session, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

4 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 4-28b and 16a-41a of the
5 general statutes, the Commissioner of Social Services shall [amend the
6 adopted] adopt a low income home energy assistance program block
7 grant allocation plan for the [purpose of modifying the 2005/2006]
8 2006/2007 Connecticut energy assistance program state plan in the
9 following manner: (1) To increase the basic benefit provided to all
10 eligible households, including eligible households whose heat is
11 included in their rent, over the benefit provided for the 2005/2006
12 plan, as amended, by two hundred dollars, (2) to fund, for the fiscal
13 year ending June 30, 2007, the contingency heating assistance program
14 under the Connecticut energy assistance program to provide a three
15 hundred dollar basic benefit to eligible households, as defined in the
16 Connecticut energy assistance program state plan, whose gross annual
17 income is not more than sixty per cent of the median state income by

18 household size, and an additional two hundred dollar crisis assistance
19 benefit for such households who have exhausted their basic benefit
20 and are unable to secure primary heat, causing a life threatening
21 situation, (3) to increase the number of households weatherized
22 pursuant to the Connecticut energy assistance program, and (4) to
23 increase the number of households receiving home heating equipment
24 tune-ups and home energy efficiency measures pursuant to the home
25 energy assistance and reimbursements for tune-ups on heating
26 equipment grant program as administered pursuant to subsection (c)
27 of section 2 [of this act] public act 05-2 of the October 25 special
28 session, as amended by section 1 of public act 05-4 of the October 25
29 special session and this act.

30 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 2 of public act 05-2 of the October 25
31 special session, as amended by section 1 of public act 05-4 of the
32 October 25 special session, is repealed and the following is substituted
33 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

34 (b) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in
35 conjunction with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a
36 home energy assistance and reimbursements for tune-ups on heating
37 equipment grant program for the fiscal year ending June 30, [2006]
38 2007. Pursuant to such program, the secretary shall reimburse an
39 eligible contractor in an amount not exceeding fifty dollars per
40 household for an eligible good provided or eligible service performed.

41 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of one million dollars is
42 appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management, from the
43 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for the purpose
44 of fulfilling the duties of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
45 Management pursuant to section 2 of public act 05-2 of the October 25
46 special session, as amended by section 1 of public act 05-4 of the
47 October 25 special session and this act.

48 Sec. 4. Section 4 of public act 05-2 of the October 25 special session,
49 as amended by section 2 of public act 05-4 of the October 25 special

50 session, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
51 (*Effective April 1, 2006*):

52 (a) For purposes of this section, "residential weatherization
53 products" means programmable thermostats, window film, caulking,
54 window and door weather strips, insulation, water heater blankets,
55 water heaters, natural gas and propane furnaces and boilers that meet
56 the federal Energy Star standard, windows and doors that meet the
57 federal Energy Star standard, oil furnaces and boilers that are not less
58 than [eighty-five] eighty-four per cent efficient and ground-based heat
59 pumps that meet the minimum federal energy efficiency rating.

60 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of the general statutes, from
61 November 25, 2005, to [April 1, 2006] March 31, 2007, the provisions of
62 chapter 219 of the general statutes shall not apply to sales of any
63 residential weatherization products.

64 Sec. 5. Section 7 of public act 05-2 of the October 25 special session
65 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
66 *1, 2006*):

67 (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in
68 conjunction with the Commissioner of Social Services, the
69 Commissioner of Mental Retardation, the Commissioner of Mental
70 Health and Addiction Services and the Commissioner of Children and
71 Families, shall implement a program to provide supplemental
72 compensation for heating costs for the fiscal year ending June 30,
73 [2006] 2007, to residential facilities that are supported by state funds,
74 including, but not limited to, nursing homes, which facilities are
75 distressed as a result of rising energy costs, as determined by the
76 secretary.

77 (b) The secretary shall coordinate payment procedures pursuant to
78 this section with the commissioner who has jurisdiction over the
79 subject residential facility.

80 Sec. 6. Section 8 of public act 05-2 of the October 25 special session
 81 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
 82 *1, 2006*):

83 The sum of two million dollars is appropriated to the Office of
 84 Policy and Management, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
 85 ending June 30, [2006] 2007, for the purpose of section 7 of [this act]
 86 public act 05-2 of the October 25 special session.

87 Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) The Connecticut Energy Advisory
 88 Board shall, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services
 89 and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, evaluate the
 90 effectiveness of the programs established or expanded by the
 91 provisions of sections 1 to 6, inclusive, of this act, in alleviating the
 92 impact of increased home heating costs during the 2006 to 2007 winter
 93 season on low and middle income households and residential facilities
 94 that are supported by state funds. Not later than January 1, 2008, the
 95 board shall submit a report containing the results of the evaluation,
 96 including, but not limited to, recommendations for further legislation,
 97 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 98 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
 99 having cognizance of matters relating to energy and social services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	PA 05-2 of the October 25 Sp. Sess., Sec. 1
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	PA 05-2 of the October 25 Sp. Sess., Sec. 2(b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>April 1, 2006</i>	PA 05-2 of the October 25 Sp. Sess., Sec. 4
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	PA 05-2 of the October 25 Sp. Sess., Sec. 7
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	PA 05-2 of the October 25 Sp. Sess., Sec. 8

Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
--------	---------------------	-------------

Statement of Purpose:

To extend certain provisions of An Act Concerning Emergency Home Heating Assistance from the October 25, 2005 special session.

[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.]