



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6536

LCO No. 3742

* _____HB06536PRIET_031109_____*

Referred to Committee on Program Review and Investigations

Introduced by:
(PRI)

AN ACT CONCERNING LOW INCOME ENERGY PROGRAMS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 16a-41a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (d) If funding allows, the Commissioner of Social Services, in
5 consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
6 Management, shall require that, each community action agency
7 administering a fuel assistance program begin accepting applications
8 for the program not later than September first of each year. Once an
9 application is approved, the applicant shall not be required to reapply
10 for such fuel assistance program for a period of three years.

11 Sec. 2. Section 16-262c of the general statutes is amended by adding
12 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

13 (NEW) (g) The Department of Public Utility Control shall conduct a
14 contested case proceeding to investigate the feasibility, structure and
15 cost of implementing a discounted rate system to make gas and

16 electricity more affordable for low-income customers. On or before
17 January 1, 2010, the department shall report, in accordance with the
18 provisions of section 11-4a to the joint standing committee of the
19 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy
20 regarding the results of such investigation.

21 Sec. 3. Section 16a-41c of the general statutes is repealed and the
22 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

23 The sum of two million dollars is appropriated from the funds
24 credited to the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009,
25 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 1 of public act 08-2 of the August
26 special session* to the Department of Social Services to develop a plan
27 for (1) providing funds for weatherization projects for low-income
28 households participating in the Connecticut energy assistance
29 program, (2) prioritizing assistance to households with incomes below
30 two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level, [and] (3)
31 coordinating provision of assistance to maximize effectiveness of the
32 funds with the weatherization assistance provided to low-income
33 households by the municipal electric utility and public service utility
34 companies under programs overseen by the Energy Conservation
35 Management Board pursuant to sections 7-233y, 16-245m and 16-32f,
36 as amended by this act, and the Fuel Oil Conservation Board pursuant
37 to section 16a-22l, and (4) establishing a goal for programs coordinated
38 pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection to together weatherize at
39 least thirty per cent of eligible households and reducing energy
40 consumption in each of the households by at least twenty per cent
41 within five years of the effective date of this section. No later than
42 November 1, 2008, and at least forty-five days before implementation,
43 the department shall submit such plan to the Connecticut Energy
44 Advisory Board, the Fuel Oil Conservation Board and the Energy
45 Conservation Management Board for input and advice. The Energy
46 Conservation Management Board may order modification of the plan
47 to ensure effective prioritization and coordination of weatherization
48 assistance in accordance with this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	16a-41a(d)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	16-262c
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	16a-41c

PRI

Joint Favorable C/R

ET