



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6536**

January Session, 2009

\*          HB06536ET          031909          \*

**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2       repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  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 be deemed approved and  
10      not be required to reapply for such fuel assistance program for a  
11      period of three years.

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

14      (NEW) (g) The Department of Public Utility Control shall conduct a  
15      contested case proceeding to investigate the feasibility, structure and  
16      cost of implementing a discounted rate system to make gas and  
17      electricity more affordable for low-income customers. On or before  
18      January 1, 2010, the department shall report, in accordance with the  
19      provisions of section 11-4a to the joint standing committee of the

20 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy  
21 regarding the results of such investigation.

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 Section 16a-41c of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

24 The sum of two million dollars is appropriated from the funds  
25 credited to the General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009,  
26 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 1 of public act 08-2 of the August  
27 special session\* to the Department of Social Services to develop a plan  
28 for (1) providing funds for weatherization projects for low-income  
29 households participating in the Connecticut energy assistance  
30 program, (2) prioritizing assistance to households with incomes below  
31 two hundred per cent of the federal poverty level, [and] (3)  
32 coordinating provision of assistance to maximize effectiveness of the  
33 funds with the weatherization assistance provided to low-income  
34 households by the municipal electric utility and public service utility  
35 companies under programs overseen by the Energy Conservation  
36 Management Board pursuant to sections 7-233y, 16-245m and 16-32f,  
37 as amended by this act, and the Fuel Oil Conservation Board pursuant  
38 to section 16a-22l, and (4) establishing a goal for programs coordinated  
39 pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection to weatherize in  
40 combined total at least thirty per cent of eligible households and  
41 reduce energy consumption in each of the households by at least  
42 twenty per cent not later than five years after the effective date of this  
43 section. No later than November 1, 2008, and at least forty-five days  
44 before implementation, the department shall submit such plan to the  
45 Connecticut Energy Advisory Board, the Fuel Oil Conservation Board  
46 and the Energy Conservation Management Board for input and advice.  
47 The Energy Conservation Management Board may order modification  
48 of the plan to ensure effective prioritization and coordination of  
49 weatherization assistance in accordance with this section.

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

