



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Substitute Bill No. 5958

* HB05958ET 032311 *

**AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY UPGRADES, WEATHERIZATION
AND FUEL ASSISTANCE FOR RESIDENTIAL HOMES AND
MUNICIPAL AND STATE BUILDINGS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-801 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3 [(a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall administer a state-
4 appropriated fuel assistance program to provide, within available
5 appropriations, fuel assistance to elderly and disabled persons whose
6 household gross income is above the income eligibility guidelines for
7 the Connecticut energy assistance program but does not exceed two
8 hundred per cent of federal poverty guidelines. The income eligibility
9 guidelines for the state-appropriated fuel assistance program shall be
10 determined, annually, by the Commissioner of Social Services, in
11 conjunction with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
12 Management. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance
13 with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this
14 subsection.

15 (b) The commissioner shall administer a state-appropriated
16 weatherization assistance program to provide, within available
17 appropriations, weatherization assistance in accordance with the
18 provisions of the state plan implementing the weatherization
19 assistance block grant program authorized by the federal Low-Income

20 Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, and programs of fuel assistance
21 and weatherization assistance with funds authorized by the federal
22 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 and by the U.S.
23 Department of Energy in accordance with 10 CFR Part 440
24 promulgated under Title IV of the Energy Conservation and
25 Production Act, as amended, and oil settlement funds in accordance
26 with subsections (b) and (c) of section 4-28. The commissioner shall
27 adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, (1)
28 establishing priorities for determining which households shall receive
29 such weatherization assistance, (2) requiring that such weatherization
30 assistance for energy conservation measures other than the retrofitting
31 of heating systems be provided only for any dwelling unit for which
32 an energy audit has been conducted in accordance with the provisions
33 of sections 16a-45a to 16a-46c, inclusive, (3) requiring that the only
34 criterion for determining which energy conservation measures shall be
35 implemented pursuant to this subsection in any such dwelling unit
36 shall be the simple payback calculated for each energy conservation
37 measure recommended in the energy audit conducted for such unit, (4)
38 establishing the maximum allowable payback period for such energy
39 conservation measures and (5) establishing conditions for the waiver
40 of the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection
41 in the event of emergencies. The programs provided for under this
42 subsection shall include a program of fuel and weatherization
43 assistance for emergency shelters for homeless individuals and victims
44 of domestic violence. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in
45 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement and
46 administer the program of fuel and weatherization assistance for
47 emergency shelters.]

48 [(c)] The Commissioner of Social Services shall administer, within
49 available appropriations, a crime prevention and safety program for
50 residences occupied by elderly and disabled persons who are eligible
51 for the weatherization assistance block grant program authorized by
52 the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 or the
53 state-appropriated weatherization assistance program. The program

54 shall be operated through the community action agencies and the
55 municipal agency responsible for said low income weatherization
56 program. The program may provide for the purchase and installation,
57 where necessary, of devices which allow a person inside a dwelling
58 unit to view the area outside the door, or doors with windows, locks
59 on windows and doors, and smoke detectors. The installation of
60 devices under this program shall be done at the time weatherization is
61 done.

62 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) The Department of Public
63 Utility Control shall administer a state-appropriated fuel assistance
64 program to provide, within available appropriations, fuel assistance to
65 elderly and disabled persons whose household gross income is above
66 the income eligibility guidelines for the Connecticut energy assistance
67 program but does not exceed two hundred per cent of federal poverty
68 guidelines. The income eligibility guidelines for the state-appropriated
69 fuel assistance program shall be determined, annually, by the
70 Department of Public Utility Control, in conjunction with the Secretary
71 of the Office of Policy and Management. The department may adopt
72 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
73 general statutes, to implement the provisions of this subsection.

74 (b) The department shall administer a state-appropriated
75 weatherization assistance program to provide, within available
76 appropriations, weatherization assistance in accordance with the
77 provisions of the state plan implementing the weatherization
78 assistance block grant program authorized by the federal Low-Income
79 Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, and programs of fuel assistance
80 and weatherization assistance with funds authorized by the federal
81 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 and by the United
82 States Department of Energy in accordance with 10 CFR Part 440
83 promulgated under Title IV of the Energy Conservation and
84 Production Act, as amended, and oil settlement funds in accordance
85 with subsections (b) and (c) of section 4-28 of the general statutes. The
86 department shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions
87 of chapter 54 of the general statutes, (1) establishing priorities for

88 determining which households shall receive such weatherization
 89 assistance, (2) requiring that such weatherization assistance for energy
 90 conservation measures other than the retrofitting of heating systems be
 91 provided only for any dwelling unit for which an energy audit has
 92 been conducted in accordance with the provisions of sections 16a-45a
 93 to 16a-46c, inclusive, of the general statutes, (3) requiring that the only
 94 criterion for determining which energy conservation measures shall be
 95 implemented pursuant to this subsection in any such dwelling unit
 96 shall be the simple payback calculated for each energy conservation
 97 measure recommended in the energy audit conducted for such unit, (4)
 98 establishing the maximum allowable payback period for such energy
 99 conservation measures, and (5) establishing conditions for the waiver
 100 of the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection
 101 in the event of emergencies. The programs provided for under this
 102 subsection shall include a program of fuel and weatherization
 103 assistance for emergency shelters for homeless individuals and victims
 104 of domestic violence. The department may adopt regulations, in
 105 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
 106 implement and administer the program of fuel and weatherization
 107 assistance for emergency shelters.

108 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Public Utility
 109 Control shall conduct a study of the progress of the state-appropriated
 110 weatherization assistance program in the state. Said study shall
 111 include, but not be limited to, an examination of the costs,
 112 implementation and effectiveness of such program, and the
 113 department's recommendations for outreach efforts and program
 114 expansion. Not later than February 1, 2012, the department shall report
 115 its findings and recommendations, in accordance with section 11-4a of
 116 the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
 117 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	17b-801

Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

For accuracy, in the first sentence of section 3, "the" was inserted before "state-appropriated" and in the first and second sentences of section 3, "program" was substituted for "programs".

ET *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*