

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 553**

A bill to amend 1984 PA 34, entitled  
"Michigan low income heating assistance and shut-off protection  
act,"  
by amending section 7 (MCL 400.1207).

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 7. (1) There is created a low income heating assistance  
2   and shut-off protection program. The program shall be administered  
3   by the department to prevent utility service shut-offs, promote  
4   awareness of and changes in energy use habits, promote conservation  
5   techniques, provide incentives for energy conservation, help reduce  
6   energy use by improving the housing stock, and provide relocation  
7   assistance.

8       (2) The department shall do all of the following:



1 (a) Coordinate weatherization efforts for assisted households.

2 ~~—— (b) Authorize use of weatherization resources among the~~  
3  ~~dwellings of all assisted households in the state. The department~~  
4  ~~shall give first priority to households which exceed the annual~~  
5  ~~consumption cap.~~

6 ~~—— (c) Not later than the beginning of the third program year,~~  
7  ~~promulgate rules to create an energy conservation incentive which~~  
8  ~~shall provide direct financial benefits to assisted households~~  
9  ~~which reduce their use of heating energy. The rules shall be~~  
10  ~~promulgated pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969,~~  
11  ~~Act No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, being sections 24.201 to~~  
12  ~~24.315 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.~~

13 ~~—— (d) Subject to restrictions prescribed by federal regulations~~  
14  ~~governing aid to families with dependent children, rules of the~~  
15  ~~state department of social services, or otherwise, for preventing~~  
16  ~~the disclosure of confidential information to any person not~~  
17  ~~authorized by law to receive the confidential information, the~~  
18  ~~state department of social services shall make available to a~~  
19  ~~public utility regulated by the Michigan public service commission~~  
20  ~~information concerning applicants and recipients of public~~  
21  ~~assistance, the disclosure of which is necessary and the use of~~  
22  ~~which is strictly limited to the purpose of a public utility's~~  
23  ~~administering a program created by statute or an order of the~~  
24  ~~Michigan public service commission and intended to assist~~  
25  ~~applicants or recipients of public assistance in defraying their~~  
26  ~~energy costs.~~

27 ~~—— (e) Not later than the beginning of the third program year, in~~



1 ~~cooperation with provider utilities, implement a positive billing~~  
2 ~~system by which the difference, if any, between an assisted~~  
3 ~~household's monthly heating bills and the household's heating~~  
4 ~~allotments and supplemental payments will be billed directly to the~~  
5 ~~department and paid to the provider utility monthly, up to the~~  
6 ~~annual consumption cap.~~

7 (B) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ACT,  
8 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.1 TO 400.119B, AND SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS  
9 PRESCRIBED BY FEDERAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO  
10 NEEDY FAMILIES OR OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS, RULES OF THE DEPARTMENT,  
11 OR OTHERWISE, FOR PREVENTING THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL  
12 INFORMATION TO ANY PERSON NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO RECEIVE THE  
13 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
14 MAKE AVAILABLE TO AN ENERGY PROVIDER INFORMATION CONCERNING  
15 APPLICANTS FOR, AND RECIPIENTS OF, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, THE  
16 DISCLOSURE OF WHICH IS NECESSARY AND THE USE OF WHICH IS STRICTLY  
17 LIMITED TO THE PURPOSE OF AN ENERGY PROVIDER ADMINISTERING A  
18 PROGRAM CREATED BY STATUTE OR BY ORDER OF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC  
19 SERVICE COMMISSION AND INTENDED TO ASSIST APPLICANTS FOR, OR  
20 RECIPIENTS OF, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN DEFRAYING THEIR ENERGY COSTS OR  
21 PREVENTING OR DELAYING UTILITY DISCONNECTION.

22 (C) ~~(f)~~ Expand the department's energy crisis intervention  
23 services within available resources. The department shall review  
24 and make recommendations concerning cases of assisted households  
25 having natural gas use or electrical consumption ~~which~~ **THAT** exceeds  
26 the annual consumption cap, and shall expand its effort to identify  
27 dwellings ~~which~~ **THAT** cannot be made energy-efficient and help



1 relocate those assisted households to more energy efficient  
2 dwellings if reasonable alternative housing is available. The  
3 department shall determine whether a dwelling cannot be made energy  
4 efficient.

5 (D) ~~(g) Not later than the beginning of the second program~~  
6 ~~year, develop~~ **DEVELOP** and implement a uniform record keeping and  
7 reporting system for the program.

8 (E) ~~(h)~~ Establish monitoring criteria for program evaluation  
9 ~~which~~ **THAT** shall include, but not be limited to, all of the  
10 following:

11 (i) The number of assisted households ~~which~~ **THAT** exceed the  
12 annual consumption cap.

13 (ii) The average consumption both before and after  
14 weatherization for each assisted household.

15 (iii) The number of shut-offs of heating service to assisted  
16 households.

17 (iv) The number of dwellings of assisted households  
18 weatherized.