

SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 555

A bill to amend 1984 PA 34, entitled
"Michigan low income heating assistance and shut-off protection
act,"

(MCL 400.1201 to 400.1217) by adding section 7a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 SEC. 7A. NOT LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2010 OR AT A TIME CONSIDERED
2 POSSIBLE BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL OPERATE AN
3 ELECTRONIC PAYMENT PROCESS WITH PARTICIPATING ENERGY PROVIDERS TO
4 PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF LOW INCOME CUSTOMER ENERGY BILLS THAT
5 ARE SUBJECT TO SHUTOFF. THE DEPARTMENT, AS IT CONSIDERS
6 APPROPRIATE, SHALL ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH ENERGY PROVIDERS IN
7 WHICH THE ENERGY PROVIDER AGREES TO PERMIT THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE
8 DIRECT PAYMENTS TO THE ENERGY PROVIDER ON BEHALF OF AN ELIGIBLE
9 RECIPIENT. THE AGREEMENT SHALL AUTHORIZE THE ENERGY PROVIDER TO
10 PROVIDE CUSTOMER INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT

- 1 SHALL DETERMINE THE ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS, PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS,
- 2 BENEFIT LEVELS, AND FUNDING LEVELS.