

# SENATE BILL No. 555

May 7, 2009, Introduced by Senator RICHARDVILLE and referred to the Committee on Energy Policy and Public Utilities.

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 PROVIDER UTILITIES 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 PROVIDER UTILITIES IN  
7        WHICH THE PROVIDER UTILITY 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 PROVIDER UTILITY TO

1 PROVIDE CUSTOMER INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT  
2 SHALL DETERMINE THE ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS, PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS,  
3 BENEFIT LEVELS, AND FUNDING LEVELS.