

SENATE BILL No. 556

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

A bill to amend 1939 PA 3, entitled

"An act to provide for the regulation and control of public and certain private utilities and other services affected with a public interest within this state; to provide for alternative energy suppliers; to provide for licensing; to include municipally owned utilities and other providers of energy under certain provisions of this act; to create a public service commission and to prescribe and define its powers and duties; to abolish the Michigan public utilities commission and to confer the powers and duties vested by law on the public service commission; to provide for the continuance, transfer, and completion of certain matters and proceedings; to abolish automatic adjustment clauses; to prohibit certain rate increases without notice and hearing; to qualify residential energy conservation programs permitted under state law for certain federal exemption; to create a fund; to provide for a restructuring of the manner in which energy is provided in this state; to encourage the utilization of resource recovery facilities; to prohibit certain acts and practices of providers of energy; to allow for the securitization of stranded costs; to reduce rates; to provide for appeals; to provide appropriations; to declare the effect and purpose of this act; to prescribe remedies and penalties; and to repeal acts and parts of acts,"

(MCL 460.1 to 460.11) by adding section 9k.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 SEC. 9K. (1) NO LATER THAN 2 YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF
2 THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED THIS SECTION AND EVERY 2 YEARS AFTER
3 THAT DATE, THE COMMISSION SHALL FILE A REPORT WITH THE LEGISLATURE
4 PRESENTING RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS TO
5 ASSISTING SENIOR CUSTOMERS WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL AND
6 STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AS WELL AS RECOMMENDATIONS TO
7 CHANGES IN SHUT-OFF PROCEDURES.

8 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN
9 SERVICES AND COMMUNITY HEALTH, PROVIDERS, AND SOCIAL SERVICES
10 AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO ASSISTING CUSTOMERS WHO MAY BE
11 ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL AND STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

12 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "PROVIDER" MEANS AN ELECTRIC
13 UTILITY, MUNICIPALLY OWNED NATURAL GAS OR ELECTRIC UTILITY,
14 COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC UTILITY, ALTERNATIVE ELECTRIC SUPPLIER, OR AN
15 INVESTOR-OWNED BUSINESS ENGAGED IN THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF
16 NATURAL GAS WITHIN THIS STATE WHOSE RATES ARE REGULATED BY THE
17 COMMISSION.