

# SENATE BILL NO. 620

September 01, 2021, Introduced by Senators SANTANA, GEISS, BAYER, WOJNO, POLEHANKI, MOSS, BULLOCK, CHANG and HOLLIER and referred to the Committee on Health Policy and Human Services.

A bill to amend 1981 PA 180, entitled  
"Older Michiganians act,"  
(MCL 400.581 to 400.594) by adding sections 10a and 10b.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1       Sec. 10a. (1) The department of health and human services
- 2 shall establish the elderly emergency aid program.
- 3       (2) The department of health and human services shall
- 4 administer the elderly emergency aid program under the department
- 5 director's supervision.

1           (3) Emergency vouchers must be distributed to older persons  
2 who experience public utility damage from a declared emergency.

3           (4) Emergency vouchers can be redeemed for the following  
4 essential utilities:

5           (a) Personal protective equipment.

6           (b) Heating equipment.

7           (c) Essential cleanup supplies.

8           (d) Fans.

9           (e) Blankets.

10          (f) Other related essential utilities.

11          (5) Emergency vouchers may be redeemed through the department  
12 of health and human services through an application process.

13          (6) Emergency assistance reimbursement shall be granted to  
14 older persons who experience public utility damage from a declared  
15 emergency.

16          (7) Reimbursement shall be given to utility companies to  
17 complete damage relief. Reimbursement shall be granted for  
18 repairing the following essential utilities damaged by a declared  
19 emergency:

20          (a) Air conditioning.

21          (b) Heating.

22          (c) Building damage.

23          (d) Water damage.

24          (e) Gas damage.

25          (f) Other essential utilities.

26          (8) Emergency reimbursement may be granted through the  
27 department of health and human services through an application  
28 process as determined by an emergency manager.

29          (9) Emergency help must be established to mitigate all

1 concerns an older person may have during and after a declared  
2 emergency has occurred and must include a process in which an older  
3 person may call or email to ask for resources and guidance on  
4 assistance.

5 (10) Emergency help assistance options include referral to  
6 emergency reimbursement, emergency vouchers, other department of  
7 health and human services programs, local or community programs,  
8 federal programs and grants, and nonprofit aid.

9 (11) As used in this section and section 10b:

10 (a) "Declared emergency" means a declared emergency as  
11 determined by this state or the federal government.

12 (b) "Public utility" means any essential appliance needed for  
13 adequate living.

14 Sec. 10b. (1) The elderly emergency fund is created within the  
15 state treasury.

16 (2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from  
17 any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall  
18 direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit  
19 to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments.

20 (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall  
21 remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

22 (4) The department of health and human services shall be the  
23 administrator of the fund for auditing purposes.

24 (5) The elderly emergency aid program shall expend money from  
25 the fund, upon appropriation, for the purposes of providing aid for  
26 all activated emergencies.

27 (6) The elderly emergency fund shall be divided into the  
28 following categories:

29 (a) 60% shall be allocated for emergency assistance

1 reimbursement.

2 (b) 30% shall be allocated for emergency vouchers.

3 (c) 10% shall be allocated for emergency help.