

SENATE BILL NO. 249

April 23, 2025, Introduced by Senators DAMOOSE, CHANG, CAVANAGH, BAYER, MCMORROW, SHINK and GEISS and referred to Committee on Housing and Human Services.

A bill to amend 1939 PA 280, entitled
"The social welfare act,"
(MCL 400.1 to 400.119b) by adding section 14q.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 14q. (1) Not later than 30 days after the effective date
- 2 of the amendatory act that added this section, the department shall
- 3 create a low-income water residential affordability program task
- 4 force.
- 5 (2) The director of the department shall appoint members of

1 the task force that include, but are not limited to, all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Representatives of a provider with a population served of
4 less than 3,300.

5 (b) Representatives of a provider with a population served of
6 between 3,300 and 10,000.

7 (c) Representatives of a provider with a population served of
8 over 10,000.

9 (d) Representatives of water and sewerage consumer advocacy
10 groups.

11 (e) Representatives of community action agencies.

12 (f) Representatives of municipal governments.

13 (g) Representatives of small rural counties and suburban and
14 urban areas.

15 (h) Representatives of environmental groups.

16 (3) The task force shall do all of the following:

17 (a) Discuss, and advise the department on, best practices for
18 administering the affordability program.

19 (b) Not later than 9 months after the effective date of the
20 amendatory act that added this section, develop further guidance
21 for the affordability program. The department shall implement this
22 guidance not later than 18 months after the effective date of the
23 amendatory act that added this section.

24 (c) Work with the department to develop educational outreach
25 materials about the affordability program.

26 (d) Seek additional funding sources for the affordability
27 program.

28 (e) Explore ways to expand the affordability program to
29 include more types of providers.

1 (f) Review and make recommendations to the department
2 regarding any potential changes to the water usage limits described
3 in section 14o(17).

4 (g) Not later than 9 months after the effective date of the
5 amendatory act that added this section, develop and recommend to
6 the department criteria for reviewing and approving a low-income
7 water residential affordability program for a provider that creates
8 and implements its own program under section 14s.

9 (4) The department shall collaborate with the department of
10 treasury to distribute funding from the fund to the providers to
11 make up the difference between the total of customers' actual
12 water, sewerage, and stormwater bill and the total discounted water
13 and sewerage bills provided through the affordability program or a
14 provider's low-income water residential affordability program. The
15 department shall collaborate with the department of treasury to
16 distribute funds to assist with plumbing repairs and other repairs
17 necessary as described in section 14o(16). The department of
18 treasury shall set aside a specific funding amount for plumbing
19 repairs.

20 (5) The department shall collaborate with the department of
21 treasury to distribute funds to third-party organizations that the
22 department collaborates with to administer the affordability
23 program to cover the administrative costs.

24 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
25 unless all of the following bills of the 103rd Legislature are
26 enacted into law:

27 (a) Senate Bill No. 248.

28
29 (b) Senate Bill No. 250.

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2 (c) Senate Bill No. 252.