
By Mr. Backman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 717) of Jack H. Backman and others for legislation to establish a permanent home heating assistance program. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-one.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23B of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 24 the following new
3 section: —

4 *Section 25.* The department of community affairs, division
5 of social and economic opportunity, shall administer a home
6 heating assistance program which consists of: —

7 (a) a revolving loan fund to provide start-up funding and
8 periodic advance funding for an emergency assistance pro-
9 gram to lessen the impact of high energy costs on low-income
10 individuals, families and the elderly. The revolving loan fund
11 shall be administered in accordance with the federal programs
12 provided for in the "Home Energy Assistance Act of 1980,"
13 Title III of the Crude Oil Windfall Profits Tax Act of 1980
14 (P.L. 96-223) and the regulations promulgated pursuant there-
15 to. Funding from said loan fund shall be available to eligible
16 applicants no later than October first of each year. Any funds
17 expended from this revolving loan fund shall be reimbursed
18 by such federal funds as are available to the commonwealth
19 for home energy assistance.

20 (b) a program of energy assistance for needy elderly and
21 families whose income is above the U.S. bureau of labor
22 statistics' lower living standard but not over two hundred
23 percent of the poverty level as established by the United States
24 community services administration for one and two person
25 families, provided that such program shall, except for the

26 income eligibility requirement, be administered in accordance
27 with the federal programs provided for in the "Home Energy
28 Assistance Act," Title III of the Crude Oil Windfall Profits
29 Tax Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-223) and the regulations promul-
30 gated pursuant thereto; provided further that administrative
31 costs of ten percent be included in any allocation for said
32 program.

33 (c) a home energy assistance program for needy elderly
34 and families whose income is not above the U.S. bureau of
35 labor statistics' lower living standard, provided that federal
36 funds are not available at the time of application for assistance
37 by said needy elderly and families, provided that such program
38 shall be administered in accordance with the aforementioned
39 federal regulations; provided further that administrative costs
40 of ten percent be included in any allocation for said program.

41 (d) a winterization and conservation program to aid elderly
42 individuals and families who participated in the previous year's
43 energy crisis assistance program to lessen the impact of
44 high energy costs; provided that said program is administered
45 during the months of July through November so as to assist
46 such households prior to the advent of cold weather and the
47 inception of the federal home energy assistance program.

48 (e) administrative costs for the operation of the home
49 energy assistance program provided that said program shall
50 be administered in accordance with the aforementioned fed-
51 eral regulations in order to meet federal match requirements
52 and/or to supplement available federal administrative funds
53 up to ten percent of the total federal program allocation.