

HB 1903 -- Redline

Substitute to Bill -- Establishing a statewide low-income energy assistance program.

Deletions ~~struck~~ · Insertions underlined

~~H-1576, H-1209.1~~ 1 ~~SUBSTITUTE~~ HOUSE BILL 1903 State of Washington 69th Legislature 2025 Regular Session By House Environment & Energy (originally sponsored by Representatives Mena, Berry, Doglio, Parshley, Simmons, Santos, Taylor, Scott, Ramel, Farivar, Hill, Pollet, and ~~Duerr~~) Duerr ~~READ~~ Read ~~FIRST~~ first ~~TIME~~ time ~~02/21/25, 02/07/25.~~

Referred to Committee on Environment & Energy.

1 ~~SHB~~ HB 1903 experience and likelihood that an eligible household receives assistance.

(c) Low-income households may ~~apply~~ self-attest ~~to that the utility from which they receive~~ meet service income if qualifications; the utility has voluntarily chosen to serve as coadministrator of the program;

(d) ~~Low-income~~ The households ~~department~~ may ~~self-attest~~ verify that ~~they~~ applicants and participants ~~meet the income qualifications;~~ qualifications, and may work with utilities and community action councils to conduct this verification;

(e) ~~The~~ There ~~department is~~ may ~~no verify~~ risk that ~~to applicants~~ eligibility and ~~based participants on~~ meet ~~immigration the status or income qualifications, self-attestation; and may work with utilities and community action councils to conduct this verification;~~

and (f) There ~~The~~ is ~~department~~ no ~~must~~ risk explore ~~to~~ auto-enrollment eligibility of ~~based known~~ one ~~eligible~~ immigration households. status or income self-attestation;

~~and (3) (g) The department must explore~~ provide ~~auto-enrollment outreach~~ offer ~~for known~~ the eligible ~~program households by;~~

2 ~~SHB~~ HB 1903 ~~(3) (a) The~~ Developing ~~department~~ a ~~must~~ website ~~provide~~ and ~~outreach~~ materials ~~for the program by;~~ that provide information in multiple languages.

~~(a) Developing a website and materials for the program that provide information in multiple languages.~~

~~(4) (4) (a) The~~ In ~~department~~ accordance ~~may enter into agreements with utilities~~ section to ~~5 serve of as~~ this ~~coadministrators act, of the statewide~~ department ~~low-income~~ must ~~energy~~ administer ~~assistance~~ the ~~program for by the~~ providing ~~purposes~~ funds ~~offer~~ enhancing ~~energy~~ customer ~~assistance~~ engagement, to ~~facilitating~~ gas ~~enrollment and of~~ electric ~~eligible~~ companies, customers, and sharing to ~~administrative~~ all ~~duties~~ other ~~with~~ electric ~~the~~ utilities. department.

~~Serving as a coadministrator is voluntary for utilities.~~

~~(5) (a) In accordance with section 5 of this act, the department must administer the program by providing funds for energy assistance to gas and electric companies, and to all other electric utilities.~~

~~(b) (i) (b) A~~ The ~~utility~~ dollar with ~~amount more than 25,000 customers in the state~~ department ~~must provide energy to~~ assistance ~~low- to income~~ customers ~~households and must then be~~ sought ~~tiered~~ reimbursement to ~~from~~ provide ~~the department~~ most ~~equal~~ energy ~~assistance to the~~ energy ~~households~~ assistance ~~with provided, the greatest need.~~

~~(c) The~~ department ~~department's~~ must ~~obligation to provide~~ reimbursement ~~energy within~~ assistance ~~30 is~~ based on ~~receipt~~ available ~~of~~ funding ~~a~~ appropriated ~~reimbursement for request~~ this ~~from~~ specific ~~the~~ purpose. utility.

~~(ii) A utility serving up to 25,000 customers in the state may request that the department provide funds for energy assistance in advance of the utility providing the energy assistance to customers.~~

~~p-~~

3 ~~SHB~~ 1903 The department may provide energy assistance upfront with appropriate contractual agreements.

(c) The dollar amount that the department must provide to low-income households must be tiered to provide the most energy assistance to the households with the greatest need.

(d) The department's obligation to provide energy assistance is based on available funding appropriated for this specific purpose.

~~(e) (5) The department must ensure~~ submit ~~that a~~ benefit ~~report level~~ sto ~~provided~~ the ~~through~~ governor ~~the~~ and ~~statewide~~ legislature ~~low-income~~ that ~~energy~~ includes ~~assistance~~ a ~~program~~ are ~~evaluation~~ not ~~of~~ less ~~the~~ than ~~statewide~~ what ~~low- income~~ customer ~~energy~~ enrolled ~~assistance~~ in ~~their~~ utility ~~program~~ received ~~by~~ from ~~July~~ their ~~1st~~ utility ~~program in the~~ every ~~previous~~ even-numbered ~~year.~~

(6) The department must submit a report to the governor and legislature that includes a program evaluation of the statewide low-income energy assistance program by July 1st in every even-numbered year.

~~NEW~~ p. SECTION.

3 HB 1903 NEW SECTION.

~~p-~~ (2) A gas company or electric company may opt-out of the statewide low-income energy assistance

program if it has at least one low-income program that provides energy assistance to at least 50 percent of low-income households served by the utility and maintains this participation percent.

~~4 For SHB an 1903 (2) A gas company or electric company company, may such opt-out of the statewide low-income energy assistance program if for the programs utility must provides follow monthly energy bill assistance to at least 50 percent of low-income households served by the utility requirements and outlined maintains in this RCW participation 19.405.120. percent.~~

~~For The angas electric company company, or such electric programs company must follow certify in a report to the requirements department outlined of commerce each year that the utility is meeting the required low-income household participation percent in RCW the 19.405.120. program or programs.~~

~~The gas company or electric company must certify in a report to the department of commerce each year that the utility is meeting the required low-income household participation percent in the program or programs.~~

~~(2)(a)(2) An electric utility must make programs and funding available for energy assistance to low-income households by July 31, 2021, 2021, p.~~

~~(b) 4 By HB July 1903 1, which 2028, the an utility electric may utility either must do either directly and in accordance with the requirements described in this section or through the statewide low-income energy assistance program described in section 3 of this act.~~

~~(i) An Participate electric utility's participation in the statewide low-income energy assistance program established satisfies in compliance section with 3 of this act; section.~~

~~or (ii) have at least one low-income program that provides monthly energy bill assistance to at least 50 percent of all low-income households, as defined in RCW 19.405.020, served by the utility, maintain this participation percent, and comply with the requirements described in this section.~~

~~(c) For an electric utility choosing to opt-out of the statewide low-income energy assistance program, the electric utility must certify in a report to the department of commerce each year that the utility is meeting the required low-income household participation percent in the program or programs as described in (b) of this subsection.~~

~~The first report to the department of commerce must be by July 1, 2026.~~

~~If an electric utility does not meet the requirements of this subsection by July 1, 2028, the electric utility must then p.~~

~~5 SHB 1903 immediately contact the department of commerce to establish participation in the statewide low-income energy assistance program.~~

~~(d) An electric utility's participation in the statewide low-income energy assistance program satisfies compliance with this section.~~

~~65 SHB HB 1903 (c) The information required by (b) of this subsection must be from the electric utility's most recent completed budget period and in a form, timeline, and manner as prescribed by the department.~~

~~76 SHB HB 1903 (b) The department must also assess mechanisms to prioritize energy assistance towards low-income households with a higher energy burden.~~

~~87 SHB HB 1903 equipment, to reduce process emissions, and to switch to less emissions intensive fuel sources;~~

~~98 SHB HB 1903 (i) Programs, activities, or projects that directly improve energy affordability and reduce the energy burden of people with lower incomes, as well as the higher transportation fuel burden of rural residents, such as bill assistance, energy efficiency, and weatherization programs;~~

~~109 SHB HB 1903 needed for any activities by local governments to comply with chapter 70A.540 RCW;~~

~~1110 SHB HB 1903~~