

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0124

Low income home energy assistance program.

Sponsored by: Task Force on Utility and Tax Relief

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public assistance; establishing a state
2 component of the federal low income home energy assistance
3 program; specifying requirements of the program; providing
4 an appropriation; providing for implementation; and
5 providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 42-2-501 is created to read:

10

11

ARTICLE 5

12

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

13

14 **42-2-501. Low income home energy assistance program;**
15 **funding.**

16

1 (a) The department shall administer a low income home
2 energy assistance program in accordance with federal P.L.
3 97-35, as amended. The department shall submit and keep
4 current a state plan and shall administer the program in
5 accordance with the state plan and this section.

6
7 (b) The program shall provide energy assistance to
8 eligible households as provided in this section. Energy
9 assistance shall include those uses of federal funds
10 authorized under P.L. 97-35, as amended. The state plan
11 shall provide that of the authorized uses not less than
12 twenty-five percent (25%) of the available funding for the
13 program shall be used for weatherization assistance.
14 Weatherization assistance shall include the following for
15 residential dwellings only:

16
17 (i) Weatherization needs assessments and audits;

18
19 (ii) Caulking, insulation, storm window and
20 similar improvements to reduce energy use;

21
22 (iii) Furnace and heating system modifications
23 and repairs;

1 (iv) Furnace replacement;

2

3 (v) Cooling efficiency modifications, repairs
4 and replacements;

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6 (vi) Repair or replacement of water heaters and
7 heating systems for portions of a dwelling;

8

9 (vii) Other measures as determined by the
10 department to be necessary to ensure a safe, well-
11 weatherized dwelling.

12

13 (c) In addition to categorically eligible individuals
14 authorized under P.L. 97-35, as amended, the state plan
15 shall provide eligibility for those households with incomes
16 which do not exceed the greater of:

17

18 (i) An amount equal to one hundred eighty-five
19 percent (185%) of the federal poverty level for Wyoming; or

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21 (ii) An amount equal to sixty percent (60%) of
22 the state median income.

23

1 (d) The department may modify the state plan as
2 necessary to meet federal requirements not to exclude
3 households with lesser incomes than the amounts specified
4 in subsection (c) of this section.

5
6 (e) The maximum assistance provided to any household
7 under the program in any state fiscal year shall not exceed
8 the federal department of energy maximum annual unit
9 average as calculated and authorized under P.L. 106-469, as
10 amended.

11
12 (f) The department may adopt rules and regulations as
13 necessary to implement this section.

14
15 **Section 2.** W.S. 9-2-2101 by creating a new subsection
16 (k) is amended to read:

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18 **9-2-2101. Department of family services; duties and**
19 **responsibilities; state grants; authority to contract for**
20 **shelters; definitions; youth programs.**

21
22 (k) The department shall administer the low income
23 home energy assistance program in accordance with W.S.
24 42-2-501.

1

2 **Section 3.** There is appropriated from the general
3 fund to the department of family services three million
4 dollars (\$3,000,000.00) for the low income home energy
5 assistance program for the remainder of the fiscal biennium
6 ending June 30, 2006 and the fiscal biennium beginning July
7 1, 2006. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-4-207, these funds shall
8 not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium ending June 30,
9 2006.

10

11 **Section 4.**

12

13 (a) The department of family services shall include a
14 request for funds in its 2009-2010 standard budget request
15 to continue funding for the low income home energy
16 assistance program at levels provided under this act.

17

18 (b) The department of family services shall modify
19 any existing state plan submitted pursuant to P.L. 97-35 as
20 necessary to reflect the provisions of this act. A
21 modified state plan may be submitted to federal authorities
22 immediately and shall be submitted no later than July 30,
23 2006.

24

1 **Section 5.** This act is effective immediately upon
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
4 Constitution.

5

6

(END)