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SENATE FILE 191

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HOLVECK, and CONNOLLY

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the use of energy efficiency plan-related
2 moneys to provide financial assistance to low-income customers
3 of gas public utilities and providing an effective date.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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APPROPRIATIONS

1 Section 1. Section 476.6, Code 2001, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 25. LOW-INCOME FUNDING. Moneys collected
4 by rate-regulated gas utilities pursuant to subsection 19,
5 paragraph "e", that represent unrecovered amounts for the gas
6 portions of energy efficiency plans approved prior to July 1,
7 1996, shall be paid, up to a maximum of twenty million dollars
8 per year, to the department of human rights. The moneys paid
9 to the department shall be used to provide financial
10 assistance to eligible low-income customers of gas public
11 utilities, as defined by the federal low-income heating energy
12 assistance program guidelines, in paying their natural gas
13 bills. The board shall adopt rules specifying each rate-
14 regulated gas utility's share of the fund and each utility's
15 allocation methods among residential and other firm customers,
16 but a customer's rates shall not increase as a result of this
17 subsection. These funds shall be paid to the department until
18 July 1, 2003, at which time rate-regulated gas utilities may
19 continue recovery of any remaining amounts for the gas
20 portions of energy efficiency plans approved prior to July 1,
21 1996.

22 The board may direct, upon the department of human rights'
23 request, all rate-regulated gas utilities to advance a maximum
24 of twenty million dollars to the department, pursuant to the
25 allocation methods adopted by the board, to allow for the
26 provision of immediate financial assistance to eligible
27 customers. A rate-regulated gas utility advancing moneys
28 shall have the amount of the advance added to the unpaid
29 amount of the gas portion of its energy efficiency plan
30 approved prior to July 1, 1996, and interest shall be paid on
31 any moneys advanced at a rate equal to the interest paid on
32 the unrecovered gas portions of energy efficiency plans
33 approved prior to July 1, 1996.

34 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of
35 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

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EXPLANATION

This bill provides financial assistance to low-income customers of gas public utilities. The bill provides that moneys collected by rate-regulated utilities that represent unrecovered moneys for the gas portions of energy efficiency plans approved prior to July 1, 1996, shall be paid, up to a maximum of \$20 million per year, to the department of human rights. The bill provides that the moneys shall be used for purposes of providing eligible customers of gas public utilities with financial assistance in paying their natural gas bills. The bill provides that the utilities board shall determine each rate-regulated gas utility's share of the fund and each utility's allocation methods among residential and other firm customers. The bill provides that a customer's rates shall not increase as a result of the bill. The bill provides that moneys shall continue to be paid to the department until July 1, 2003.

The bill provides that the department may request the board to direct all rate-regulated gas utilities to advance a maximum \$20 million to the department to allow immediate financial assistance to eligible customers.

The bill takes effect upon enactment.

