S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 20, 2009

Introduced by Sens. PARKER, DIAZ, DILAN, DUANE, HASSELL-THOMPSON, MONTGOMERY, ONORATO, SAMPSON, SCHNEIDERMAN, STACHOWSKI -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to create the temporary home energy assistance grant program; making an appropriation therefor; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The temporary home energy assistance grant program. 1. Notwithstanding any law, rule or regulation to the contrary, there is hereby created the temporary home energy assistance grant program to be administered by the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability assistance, or his or her designees, to award a grant of up to two hundred dollars to each household eligible for the low-income home energy assistance program, as provided in section 97 of the social services law, and a grant of up to one hundred fifty dollars for all remaining households. Such eligible household shall file an application, as provided by the commissioner, for the temporary home energy assistance grant on or before May 31, 2010.

2. The commissioner shall award grants as follows:

a. For those households that meet the eligibility requirements for the home energy assistance program, the commissioner shall award a grant of:

(i) two hundred dollars to any household who directly pays their home energy costs; or

(ii) one hundred dollars to any household who indirectly pays their home energy costs, such as being included in their rent.

b. For all other households, the commissioner shall grant an award according to the following:

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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(i) For households with an income of more than sixty but less than seventy-five percent of the state median income, a grant of one hundred fifty dollars if they pay their home energy cost directly;

(ii) For households with an income of seventy-five percent or greater but less than eighty-five percent of the state median income, a grant of one hundred dollars if they pay their home energy cost directly;

(iii) For households with an income from eighty-five percent up to one hundred percent of the state median income, a grant of fifty dollars if they pay their home energy cost directly;

(iv) For households with an income equal to or less than one hundred percent of the state median income, a grant of fifty dollars if they indirectly pay their home energy costs, such as being included in their rent.

c. Any grant awarded pursuant to this act shall be in addition to any federal assistance received by the homeowner.

3. The temporary home energy assistance grant provided under this act shall not be considered income or resources of such households, or of any member thereof, for any purpose under any federal, state or local law, including any law relating to taxation, food stamps, public assistance or other available benefits.

S 2. The sum of five hundred million dollars ($500,000,000) or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the office of temporary and disability assistance and made immediately available, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act. Up to ten percent of such moneys may be used for administrative costs. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability assistance in the manner prescribed by law.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed on May 31, 2010.