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2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

Introduced by Sen. DIAZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to the senior citizen energy packaging pilot program and making technical changes thereto; and to repeal section 221 of such law relating to the legislative intent underlying the senior citizen energy packaging pilot program

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

1 Section 1. Section 222 of the elder law is amended to read as follows:
2 S 222. Senior citizen energy packaging pilot program. 1. (A) THE
3 LEGISLATURE FINDS AND DECLARES THAT A SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF THE
4 STATE'S SENIOR CITIZENS LIVE AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL. IN MANY
5 CASES, ENERGY COSTS REACH OR EXCEED THIRTY PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME.
6 THESE FACTORS MAKE ENERGY CONSERVATION EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF LOW INCOME
7 ELDERLY CRUCIAL. THE LEGISLATURE FURTHER FINDS THAT ENERGY CONSERVATION
8 PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN UNDER-UTILIZED BY SUCH CITIZENS BECAUSE OF SUCH
9 FACTORS AS REDUCED MOBILITY, SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL ISOLATION, AND THE
10 COMPLEXITY OF THE MAZE OF SERVICES AVAILABLE.
11 (B) THE LEGISLATURE THEREFORE DECLARES THAT A PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST
12 SUCH CITIZENS TO CONSERVE ENERGY SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE OFFICE IN
13 CONJUNCTION WITH COUNTY OFFICES FOR THE AGING. THE LEGISLATURE FURTHER
14 DECLARES THAT SUCH A PROGRAM WILL FURTHER THE ENERGY CONSERVATION OBJEC-
15 TIVES OF THE STATE AND SHOULD BE PARTIALLY SUPPORTED BY PETROLEUM OVER-
16 CHARGE RESTITUTION FUNDS.
17 2. Within the amounts appropriated therefor, the office shall estab-
18 lish guidelines for and administer a senior citizen energy packaging
19 pilot program to be carried out by county offices for the aging in the
20 counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Broome, Erie, and Tompkins and such other
21 counties as funds may allow. Wherever possible, such program shall be

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

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1 coordinated with appropriate existing programs of public utilities, the
2 state energy office, and the department of state.

3 [2.] 3. These appropriations shall be used specifically for the train-
4 ing of personnel within county offices for the aging to insure their
5 thorough familiarity with state and federal energy conservation programs
6 and benefits and their ability to facilitate receipt of such benefits by
7 the client population. These appropriations shall also be used to
8 provide salaries, appropriate benefits and expenses of such personnel in
9 carrying out the purposes of the pilot program. Depending on the size of
10 the client population to be served, no more than five of such personnel
11 shall be trained and utilized in any county.

12 [3.] 4. The client population shall consist of those senior citizens
13 living at or below the poverty level. Whenever possible, priority shall
14 be given to serving first those in greatest need of assistance, includ-
15 ing but not limited to, home energy assistance program recipients.

16 S 2. Section 221 of the elder law is REPEALED.

17 S 3. Subdivision 8 of section 203 of the elder law, as added by
18 section 18 of part B of chapter 58 of the laws of 2007, is renumbered
19 subdivision 9.

20 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.