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I N   A S S E M B L Y

April 23, 2014

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Introduced by M. of A. THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee  
on Consumer Affairs and Protection

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law and the general business law,  
in relation to establishing a home heating fuel oil consumer assist-  
ance program and in relation to home heating fuel oil pricing disclo-  
sure

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

1     Section 1. Section 1854 of the public authorities law is amended by  
2 adding a new subdivision 22 to read as follows:

3     22. TO CREATE A HOME HEATING FUEL OIL CONSUMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO  
4 INITIATE AND ENCOURAGE CONSUMER EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR THE PURPOSES OF  
5 PROVIDING OUTREACH AND EDUCATION MATERIALS TO CONSUMERS AND PROVIDERS OF  
6 HOME HEATING FUEL OIL, AND TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS OF CONSUMERS, ATTEMPT  
7 TO MEDIATE SUCH COMPLAINTS WHERE APPROPRIATE, AND REFER COMPLAINTS TO  
8 THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY AUTHORIZED BY LAW OR THE  
9 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION ON SUCH  
10 COMPLAINTS. THERE SHALL BE A SINGLE STATEWIDE TELEPHONE NUMBER AND DEDI-  
11 CATED WEBSITE FOR USE BY ALL PERSONS SEEKING GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT  
12 HOME HEATING FUEL OIL.

13     S 2. The general business law is amended by adding a new article 36-E  
14 to read as follows:

15                             ARTICLE 36-E

16                             HOME HEATING FUEL OIL PRICING DISCLOSURE  
17 SECTION 778-BB. HOME HEATING FUEL OIL PRICING DISCLOSURE.

18     S 778-BB. HOME HEATING FUEL OIL PRICING DISCLOSURE. IT SHALL BE UNLAW-  
19 FUL FOR ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION TO SELL OR OFFER FOR SALE ANY  
20 HOME HEATING FUEL OIL OR ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR HOME HEATING FUEL OIL  
21 SERVICES UNLESS SUCH SELLER PRIOR TO THE FIRST ANNUAL DELIVERY OF HOME  
22 HEATING FUEL OIL OR UPON EXECUTION OF ANY CONTRACT WHICH INCLUDES DELIV-  
23 ERY OF HOME HEATING FUEL OIL, PROVIDES THE CONSUMER WITH WRITTEN INFOR-  
24 MATION, AVAILABLE FROM THE NEW YORK STATE ENERGY AND RESEARCH DEVELOP-  
25 MENT AUTHORITY, RELATING TO THE USE OF HOME HEATING FUEL OIL; THE MAIN  
26 COMPONENTS OF THE PRICE OF HOME HEATING FUEL OIL; HOME HEATING CONSERVA-

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

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1 TION MEASURES; INFORMATION RELATING TO FEDERAL AND STATE ENERGY ASSIST-  
2 ANCE PROGRAMS WHICH SHALL BE DEVELOPED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF  
3 TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE; AND THE NEW YORK STATE ENERGY AND  
4 RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY STATEWIDE HOME HEATING FUEL OIL TELEPHONE  
5 NUMBER PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION TWENTY-TWO OF SECTION EIGHTEEN HUNDRED  
6 FIFTY-FOUR OF THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW.

7 S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.