

STATE OF NEW YORK

8362

IN SENATE

February 16, 2022

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to providing for the automated identification of affordability program participants

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section
2 131-ss to read as follows:

3 § 131-ss. Automated identification of affordability program partic-
4 ipants. 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following
5 terms shall have the following meanings:

6 (a) "Commissioner" shall mean the commissioner of the office of tempo-
7 rary and disability assistance.

8 (b) "Affordability program participant" shall mean a household that is
9 determined by the office to be eligible for any of the following
10 programs:

11 (i) Temporary assistance for needy families (family assistance);

12 (ii) Safety net assistance (public assistance);

13 (iii) Supplemental security income;

14 (iv) Food stamps;

15 (v) Low income home energy assistance program;

16 (vi) Veteran's disability pension;

17 (vii) Veteran's surviving spouse pension;

18 (viii) Child health plus;

19 (ix) Lifeline; and

20 (x) Any other income-based assistance program identified by the public
21 service commission in consultation with the office.

22 (c) "Office" shall mean the office of temporary disability assistance.

23 (d) "Utility corporation" shall mean a corporation regulated pursuant
24 to article two of the public service law.

25 (e) "Utility corporation energy affordability programs" shall be
26 defined by the public service commission and shall include programs
27 which are intended to assist customers with energy affordability by
28 reducing customers' energy burden.

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

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1 2. Within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of the chapter
2 of the laws of two thousand twenty-two, which added this section, the
3 commissioner shall establish a statewide program to provide for auto-
4 mated identification of eligible affordability program participants for
5 participation in utility corporation energy affordability programs.

6 3. The office shall engage with utility corporations to establish
7 automated file matching mechanisms that will provide, via electronic
8 means, to utility corporations a list of eligible affordability program
9 participants within the utility corporation's service territory.

10 4. The office shall conduct automated file matching to identify utili-
11 ty corporation customer accounts with affordability program participants
12 and such information shall be provided to utility corporations no less
13 than semi-annually. Utility corporation customer accounts identified by
14 the office as eligible for participation in available utility corpo-
15 ration energy affordability programs as a result of such file matching
16 shall be enrolled in such programs within sixty days of receipt of the
17 office communicating the results of the automated file matching to the
18 utility corporation.

19 5. The commissioner may adopt, on an emergency basis pursuant to arti-
20 cle two of the state administrative procedure act, any rules necessary
21 to carry out the provisions of this article.

22 6. The commissioner may delegate the administration of any portion of
23 this program to any state agency, city, county, town, contractor or
24 non-profit organization in accordance with the provisions of this arti-
25 cle and applicable federal requirements.

26 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.