STATE OF NEW YORK

2588--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 23, 2023

Introduced by Sens. PARKER, BAILEY, KENNEDY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to authorizing the department of public service to develop a temporary middle income home energy assistance 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 public service law is amended by adding a new section 28 to read as follows:

§ 28. Temporary middle income home energy assistance program. 1. The department is authorized to develop, implement, administer and operate a plan, and hold funds available for such plan, to make available one-time supplementing grants for the purpose of assisting eligible households to obtain home heating fuel.

2. For purposes of this section, the term "home heating fuel" shall mean fuel oil, coal, wood, propane, natural gas, electricity, steam, kerosene and any other fuel when used for residential heating purposes.

3. The department is required, in accordance with the plan established in subdivision one of this section, to participate in the temporary middle income home energy assistance program and to assist eligible households to obtain middle income home energy assistance.

4. Persons who qualify for middle income home energy assistance in accordance with standards promulgated by the department, shall be certified as eligible for and entitled to receive such home energy assistance. No person, however, shall be certified as eligible for and entitled to receive such home energy assistance if no state funds are available for such purpose.

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

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5. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law to the contrary, the amount of any home energy assistance payments or allowances provided to an eligible household under such plan shall not be considered income or resources of such households, or of any member thereof, for any purpose under any state law.

§ 2. The sum of one million dollars ($1,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of public service out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes fund, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose of supporting the temporary middle income home energy assistance program. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the department of public service in the manner prescribed by law.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed April 1, 2025.