STATE OF NEW YORK

2619

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 23, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the public service law and the state finance law, in relation to establishing the furloughed or non-pay federal workers revolving loan program and fund; 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 66-u to read as follows:

§ 66-u. Furloughed or non-pay federal workers loan program. 1. The commission shall create a furloughed or non-pay federal workers revolving loan program in order to provide zero percent interest loans to residential electric and natural gas customers who have been either furloughed or designated non-pay federal employees due to a period of a lapse in discretionary appropriations by the federal government in order to assist such customers in paying their electric and gas bills.

2. (a) The commission may make, upon application duly made, up to the amounts available by appropriation, loans for the payment of electric and gas bills by eligible customers.

(b) The commission shall have the power to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes of this section.

3. (a) Application for loans may be made by residential electric and natural gas customers who have been either furloughed or designated non-pay federal employees due to a period of a lapse in discretionary appropriations by the federal government.

(b) Every application shall be in a form acceptable to the commission and shall require documentation demonstrating financial need and that the applicant has been furloughed or designated non-pay as a result of a

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

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period of a lapse in discretionary appropriations by the federal government.

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-qq to read as follows:

§ 99-qq. Furloughed or non-pay federal workers revolving loan fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the comptroller and the public service commission a fund to be known as the "furloughed or non-pay federal worker revolving loan fund". Such fund shall consist of moneys made available pursuant to appropriation and any other sources in order to provide zero percent interest loans to residential electric and natural gas customers who have been either furloughed or designated non-pay federal employees pursuant to section sixty-six-u of the public service law.

2. The fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated for its purpose, all moneys transferred to such fund pursuant to law, and all moneys required by this section or any other law to be paid into or credited to this fund, including all moneys received by the fund or donated to it, payments of principal on loans made from the fund, and any interest earnings which may accrue from the investment or reinvestment of moneys from the fund.

3. Moneys of the fund, when allocated, shall be available to the public service commission to make loans as provided in section sixty-six-u of the public service law. Up to five percent of the moneys of the fund may be used to pay the expenses, including personal service and maintenance and operation, in connection with the administration of such loans.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed one year after it shall have become a law.