

HOUSE BILL No. 2526

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-19

AN ACT establishing the Kansas utilicare energy assistance program; providing for the funding thereof.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) The secretary of social and rehabilitation services is hereby directed to establish a program to assist low income Kansans in paying their home energy costs. The program shall be known as the Kansas utilicare energy assistance program.

(b) The Kansas utilicare energy assistance program shall be subject to applicable federal guidelines and regulations of the federal low income energy assistance program, except that such program shall serve Kansans whose gross household income does not exceed 150% of the poverty level established under the most recent poverty guidelines issued by the federal department of health and human resources.

(c) The Kansas utilicare energy assistance program shall be administered in the same manner as the federal low income energy assistance program. Applications for benefits and benefits under the Kansas utilicare energy assistance program shall be made available no later than December 1 of each year.

(d) The Kansas utilicare energy assistance program fund is hereby established in the state treasury which shall be for the purpose of assisting in the payment of home energy costs in accordance with the provisions of this section. The secretary of social and rehabilitation services shall administer the Kansas utilicare energy assistance program fund. All expenditures from the Kansas utilicare energy assistance program fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of social and rehabilitation services or by a person or persons designated by the secretary.

(e) On or before the 10th of each month, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer from the state general fund to the Kansas utilicare energy assistance program fund interest earnings based on:

- (1) The average daily balance of moneys in the Kansas utilicare energy assistance program fund for the preceding month; and
- (2) the net earnings rate of the pooled money investment portfolio

1 for the preceding month.

2 (f) On the effective date of this act, the director of accounts and
3 reports shall transfer \$5,000,000 from the state general fund to the Kansas
4 utilicare energy assistance program fund.

5 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
6 publication in the Kansas register.

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