

1 H.856

2 Introduced by Representatives Keenan of St. Albans City, Fagan of Rutland
3 City, Gallivan of Chittenden, McCarthy of St. Albans City,
4 McFaun of Barre Town, Miller of Shaftsbury, Toll of Danville,
5 and Wright of Burlington

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Utilities; low-income energy assistance program; statewide

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
10 Public Service Board to develop a statewide, low-income energy assistance
11 program.

12 An act relating to a statewide energy assistance program

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 218(h) is added to read:

15 (h) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Public
16 Service Board shall issue an order establishing a statewide, low-income energy
17 assistance program. Funding of the program shall be derived from an
18 assessment on electric companies subject to the Board's jurisdiction, as well as
19 on Vermont fuel dealers, in an amount and in a manner determined by the
20 Board. The Board shall establish eligibility criteria for electric company

1 ratepayers and customers of residential heating fuels, such as propane and
2 heating oil. In designing the program, the Board shall take into account the
3 potential impact on, and cost-shifting to, other ineligible customers and shall
4 also take into consideration other relevant State and federal public assistance
5 programs.

6 Sec. 2. REPEAL

7 30 V.S.A. § 218(e) (low-income electric assistance program) and 33 V.S.A.
8 § 2607(g) (low-income natural gas assistance program) are repealed.

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on passage and any tariff approved under
11 30 V.S.A. § 218(e) (electric) or 33 V.S.A. § 2607(g) (natural gas) shall be void
12 and any remaining funds shall be distributed in a manner determined by the
13 Public Service Board.