
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1275

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By House Committee on Finance (originally sponsored by Representatives Mastin, Mitchell, Radcliff, Morris, Mason, Schoesler, Keiser, Dickerson, Wood, Kessler, Scott, Blalock, Thompson, Costa, Kenney and Conway)

Read first time 03/10/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to public utility tax credits for weatherization
2 and energy assistance programs; adding a new section to chapter 82.16
3 RCW; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 82.16 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions
8 in this subsection (1) apply throughout this section.

9 (a) "Qualifying grant" means a grant provided directly or through
10 the department of community, trade, and economic development, to an
11 organization that has a contractual agreement with the department of
12 community, trade, and economic development to provide low-income
13 energy-assistance programs for a specified service area.

14 (b) "Low-income energy-assistance programs" means energy assistance
15 programs for low-income households as currently defined by the federal
16 department of health and human services.

17 (2) Subject to the limits set forth in this subsection (2), a light
18 and power business or gas distribution business may be allowed a
19 credit, against the tax imposed under this chapter, for qualifying

1 grants made by the business. The light and power business or gas
2 distribution business may receive the credit for a qualifying grant
3 during the year to the extent all qualifying grants for a specified
4 service area do not exceed five percent of the amount of moneys
5 allotted to nonprofit or governmental organizations within the
6 specified service area in federal fiscal year 1995 under the United
7 States department of health and human services low-income home energy
8 assistance program. The local organization shall apply qualifying
9 grants to the low-income energy related program that best meets a
10 community's needs as determined by the local organization.

11 (3) The credit allowed under this section is limited to the amount
12 of tax imposed by this chapter. Any unused excess credit in a
13 reporting period may be carried forward to future reporting periods for
14 a maximum of one year.

15 (4)(a) It is the intent of this section that qualifying grants used
16 for low-income energy assistance for utility customers either be
17 transferred by the utility or local organization to another utility, in
18 the case of an account closure, or be returned to the local
19 organization to be used for low-income energy-assistance programs.
20 Utilities receiving funds from qualifying grants under this section
21 should, to the extent reasonable and cost-effective, attempt to fulfill
22 this subsection.

23 (b) Local organizations receiving qualifying grants that are used
24 for low-income energy assistance shall notify recipients of these funds
25 that recipients do not have the right to retain energy assistance funds
26 received as part of a qualifying grant under this section in the case
27 of an account closure.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
29 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
30 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
31 July 1, 1997.

--- END ---