

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5669

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As of February 19, 2003

**Title:** An act relating to termination of residential heating service.

**Brief Description:** Clarifying limitations on termination of residential heating service.

**Sponsors:** Senators Fraser, Morton, Swecker and Winsley.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources, Energy & Water: 2/21/03.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & WATER

**Staff:** Richard Rodger (786-7461)

**Background:** In 1984, the Legislature passed a two-year temporary ban on the cutoff of electricity and natural gas during the winter months (November 15 to March 15). The temporary ban was extended by the Legislature in 1986 for an additional four years. In 1990, the Legislature extended the winter heat cutoff prohibition again, for one additional year, and created a joint legislative committee to study the program and make recommendations. The 1990 temporary ban was designed to expire on June 30, 1991.

During the 1991 legislative session, the Legislature made the prohibition against winter heat cutoffs permanent. In passing the 1991 legislation, one expiration date of June 30, 1991, was missed through an apparent oversight.

**Summary of Bill:** The prohibition against cutting off electricity during the winter months is clarified by deleting an expiration date.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.