

# HOUSE BILL No. 4650

March 19, 2009, Introduced by Reps. Spade and Mayes and referred to the Committee on Energy and Technology.

A bill to amend 1984 PA 34, entitled

"Michigan low income heating assistance and shut-off protection act,"

(MCL 400.1201 to 400.1217) by adding section 7a.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           SEC. 7A. NOT LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2010 OR AT A TIME CONSIDERED  
2 POSSIBLE BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL OPERATE AN  
3 ELECTRONIC PAYMENT PROCESS WITH PARTICIPATING PROVIDER UTILITIES TO  
4 PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF LOW INCOME CUSTOMER ENERGY BILLS THAT  
5 ARE SUBJECT TO SHUTOFF. THE DEPARTMENT, AS IT CONSIDERS  
6 APPROPRIATE, SHALL ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH PROVIDER UTILITIES IN  
7 WHICH THE PROVIDER UTILITY AGREES TO PERMIT THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE  
8 DIRECT PAYMENTS TO THE ENERGY PROVIDER ON BEHALF OF AN ELIGIBLE  
9 RECIPIENT. THE AGREEMENT SHALL AUTHORIZE THE PROVIDER UTILITY TO

1 PROVIDE CUSTOMER INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT  
2 SHALL DETERMINE THE ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS, PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS,  
3 BENEFIT LEVELS, AND FUNDING LEVELS.