



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 5532



Offered by:
REP. GILCHREST, 18th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5426

File No. 333

Cal. No. 228

"AN ACT CONCERNING FUEL VENDOR REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, A COMMON HEATING ASSISTANCE APPLICATION, AND STUDIES REGARDING BULK FUEL PURCHASES AND VENDOR PAYMENT BEST PRACTICES."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social
4 Services shall convene a working group to study best practices utilized
5 in other states to fairly compensate deliverable fuel vendors
6 participating in energy assistance programs while maintaining the
7 maximum amount of funding to benefit recipients of such programs.
8 The study shall include, but need not be limited to, the benefits and
9 drawbacks of bulk state purchases of deliverable fuel for the state
10 energy assistance program.

11 (b) The working group shall consist of: (1) A member of an
12 organization representing deliverable fuel vendors in the state, (2) a

13 representative of a community action agency that contracts with the
 14 commissioner to administer the state energy assistance program funded
 15 under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, as
 16 amended from time to time, (3) a representative from the Department of
 17 Administrative Services, (4) an individual who represents the interests
 18 and financial concerns of recipients of energy assistance provided under
 19 the state energy assistance program, and (5) a representative from the
 20 Office of the Consumer Counsel.

21 (c) Not later than January 31, 2025, the commissioner shall submit a
 22 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 23 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
 24 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations, energy and
 25 technology and human services on the results of the working group's
 26 study.

27 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Social Services, in
 28 consultation with the Low Income Energy Advisory Board, established
 29 pursuant to section 16a-41b of the general statutes, shall study the
 30 feasibility of developing a common application and benefits portal for
 31 use by applicants for (1) low-income home energy assistance benefits
 32 administered pursuant to section 16a-41a of the general statutes, and (2)
 33 Operation Fuel, Incorporated. Not later than July 1, 2025, the
 34 commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions
 35 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees
 36 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
 37 energy and technology and human services on the results of the study,
 38 including, but not limited to, costs and benefits of such common
 39 application and benefits portal."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section