

AN ACT concerning regulation.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Illinois Power Agency Act is amended by changing Section 1-10 as follows:

(20 ILCS 3855/1-10)

(Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 95-1027)

Sec. 1-10. Definitions.

"Agency" means the Illinois Power Agency.

"Agency loan agreement" means any agreement pursuant to which the Illinois Finance Authority agrees to loan the proceeds of revenue bonds issued with respect to a project to the Agency upon terms providing for loan repayment installments at least sufficient to pay when due all principal of, interest and premium, if any, on those revenue bonds, and providing for maintenance, insurance, and other matters in respect of the project.

"Authority" means the Illinois Finance Authority.

"Commission" means the Illinois Commerce Commission.

"Costs incurred in connection with the development and construction of a facility" means:

(1) the cost of acquisition of all real property and improvements in connection therewith and equipment and

other property, rights, and easements acquired that are deemed necessary for the operation and maintenance of the facility;

(2) financing costs with respect to bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness of the Agency;

(3) all origination, commitment, utilization, facility, placement, underwriting, syndication, credit enhancement, and rating agency fees;

(4) engineering, design, procurement, consulting, legal, accounting, title insurance, survey, appraisal, escrow, trustee, collateral agency, interest rate hedging, interest rate swap, capitalized interest and other financing costs, and other expenses for professional services; and

(5) the costs of plans, specifications, site study and investigation, installation, surveys, other Agency costs and estimates of costs, and other expenses necessary or incidental to determining the feasibility of any project, together with such other expenses as may be necessary or incidental to the financing, insuring, acquisition, and construction of a specific project and placing that project in operation.

"Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

"Director" means the Director of the Illinois Power Agency.

"Demand-response" means measures that decrease peak

electricity demand or shift demand from peak to off-peak periods.

"Energy efficiency" means measures that reduce the amount of electricity or natural gas required to achieve a given end use.

"Electric utility" has the same definition as found in Section 16-102 of the Public Utilities Act.

"Facility" means an electric generating unit or a co-generating unit that produces electricity along with related equipment necessary to connect the facility to an electric transmission or distribution system.

"Governmental aggregator" means one or more units of local government that individually or collectively procure electricity to serve residential retail electrical loads located within its or their jurisdiction.

"Local government" means a unit of local government as defined in Article VII of Section 1 of the Illinois Constitution.

"Municipality" means a city, village, or incorporated town.

"Person" means any natural person, firm, partnership, corporation, either domestic or foreign, company, association, limited liability company, joint stock company, or association and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee, or personal representative thereof.

"Project" means the planning, bidding, and construction of

a facility.

"Public utility" has the same definition as found in Section 3-105 of the Public Utilities Act.

"Real property" means any interest in land together with all structures, fixtures, and improvements thereon, including lands under water and riparian rights, any easements, covenants, licenses, leases, rights-of-way, uses, and other interests, together with any liens, judgments, mortgages, or other claims or security interests related to real property.

"Renewable energy credit" means a tradable credit that represents the environmental attributes of a certain amount of energy produced from a renewable energy resource.

"Renewable energy resources" includes energy and its associated renewable energy credit or renewable energy credits from wind, solar thermal energy, photovoltaic cells and panels, biodiesel, crops and untreated and unadulterated organic waste biomass, trees and tree trimmings, hydropower that does not involve new construction or significant expansion of hydropower dams, and other alternative sources of environmentally preferable energy. For purposes of this Act, landfill gas produced in the State is considered a renewable energy resource. "Renewable energy resources" does not include the incineration or burning of tires, garbage, general household, institutional, and commercial waste, industrial lunchroom or office waste, landscape waste other than trees and tree trimmings, railroad crossties, utility poles, or

construction or demolition debris, other than untreated and unadulterated waste wood.

"Revenue bond" means any bond, note, or other evidence of indebtedness issued by the Authority, the principal and interest of which is payable solely from revenues or income derived from any project or activity of the Agency.

"Total resource cost test" or "TRC test" means a standard that is met if, for an investment in energy efficiency or demand-response measures, the benefit-cost ratio is greater than one. The benefit-cost ratio is the ratio of the net present value of the total benefits of the program to the net present value of the total costs as calculated over the lifetime of the measures. A total resource cost test compares the sum of avoided electric utility costs, representing the benefits that accrue to the system and the participant in the delivery of those efficiency measures, as well as other quantifiable societal benefits, including avoided natural gas utility costs, to the sum of all incremental costs of end-use measures that are implemented due to the program (including both utility and participant contributions), plus costs to administer, deliver, and evaluate each demand-side program, to quantify the net savings obtained by substituting the demand-side program for supply resources. In calculating avoided costs of power and energy that an electric utility would otherwise have had to acquire, reasonable estimates shall be included of financial costs likely to be imposed by future

regulations and legislation on emissions of greenhouse gases.

(Source: P.A. 95-481, eff. 8-28-07; 95-913, eff. 1-1-09.)

(Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 95-1027)

Sec. 1-10. Definitions.

"Agency" means the Illinois Power Agency.

"Agency loan agreement" means any agreement pursuant to which the Illinois Finance Authority agrees to loan the proceeds of revenue bonds issued with respect to a project to the Agency upon terms providing for loan repayment installments at least sufficient to pay when due all principal of, interest and premium, if any, on those revenue bonds, and providing for maintenance, insurance, and other matters in respect of the project.

"Authority" means the Illinois Finance Authority.

"Clean coal facility" means an electric generating facility that uses primarily coal as a feedstock and that captures and sequesters carbon emissions at the following levels: at least 50% of the total carbon emissions that the facility would otherwise emit if, at the time construction commences, the facility is scheduled to commence operation before 2016, at least 70% of the total carbon emissions that the facility would otherwise emit if, at the time construction commences, the facility is scheduled to commence operation during 2016 or 2017, and at least 90% of the total carbon emissions that the facility would otherwise emit if, at the

time construction commences, the facility is scheduled to commence operation after 2017. The power block of the clean coal facility shall not exceed allowable emission rates for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, particulates and mercury for a natural gas-fired combined-cycle facility the same size as and in the same location as the clean coal facility at the time the clean coal facility obtains an approved air permit. All coal used by a clean coal facility shall have high volatile bituminous rank and greater than 1.7 pounds of sulfur per million btu content, unless the clean coal facility does not use gasification technology and was operating as a conventional coal-fired electric generating facility on June 1, 2009 (the effective date of Public Act 95-1027) ~~this amendatory Act of the 95th General Assembly.~~

"Clean coal SNG facility" means a facility that uses a gasification process to produce substitute natural gas, that sequesters at least 90% of the total carbon emissions that the facility would otherwise emit and that uses coal as a feedstock, with all such coal having a high bituminous rank and greater than 1.7 pounds of sulfur per million btu content.

"Commission" means the Illinois Commerce Commission.

"Costs incurred in connection with the development and construction of a facility" means:

- (1) the cost of acquisition of all real property and improvements in connection therewith and equipment and other property, rights, and easements acquired that are

deemed necessary for the operation and maintenance of the facility;

(2) financing costs with respect to bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness of the Agency;

(3) all origination, commitment, utilization, facility, placement, underwriting, syndication, credit enhancement, and rating agency fees;

(4) engineering, design, procurement, consulting, legal, accounting, title insurance, survey, appraisal, escrow, trustee, collateral agency, interest rate hedging, interest rate swap, capitalized interest and other financing costs, and other expenses for professional services; and

(5) the costs of plans, specifications, site study and investigation, installation, surveys, other Agency costs and estimates of costs, and other expenses necessary or incidental to determining the feasibility of any project, together with such other expenses as may be necessary or incidental to the financing, insuring, acquisition, and construction of a specific project and placing that project in operation.

"Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

"Director" means the Director of the Illinois Power Agency.

"Demand-response" means measures that decrease peak electricity demand or shift demand from peak to off-peak



periods.

"Energy efficiency" means measures that reduce the amount of electricity or natural gas required to achieve a given end use.

"Electric utility" has the same definition as found in Section 16-102 of the Public Utilities Act.

"Facility" means an electric generating unit or a co-generating unit that produces electricity along with related equipment necessary to connect the facility to an electric transmission or distribution system.

"Governmental aggregator" means one or more units of local government that individually or collectively procure electricity to serve residential retail electrical loads located within its or their jurisdiction.

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"Project" means the planning, bidding, and construction of a facility.

"Public utility" has the same definition as found in Section 3-105 of the Public Utilities Act.

"Real property" means any interest in land together with all structures, fixtures, and improvements thereon, including lands under water and riparian rights, any easements, covenants, licenses, leases, rights-of-way, uses, and other interests, together with any liens, judgments, mortgages, or other claims or security interests related to real property.

"Renewable energy credit" means a tradable credit that represents the environmental attributes of a certain amount of energy produced from a renewable energy resource.

"Renewable energy resources" includes energy and its associated renewable energy credit or renewable energy credits from wind, solar thermal energy, photovoltaic cells and panels, biodiesel, crops and untreated and unadulterated organic waste biomass, trees and tree trimmings, hydropower that does not involve new construction or significant expansion of hydropower dams, and other alternative sources of environmentally preferable energy. For purposes of this Act, landfill gas produced in the State is considered a renewable energy resource. "Renewable energy resources" does not include the incineration or burning of tires, garbage, general household, institutional, and commercial waste, industrial lunchroom or office waste, landscape waste other than trees and tree trimmings, railroad crossties, utility poles, or construction or demolition debris, other than untreated and

unadulterated waste wood.

"Revenue bond" means any bond, note, or other evidence of indebtedness issued by the Authority, the principal and interest of which is payable solely from revenues or income derived from any project or activity of the Agency.

"Sequester" means permanent storage of carbon dioxide by injecting it into a saline aquifer, a depleted gas reservoir, or an oil reservoir, directly or through an enhanced oil recovery process that may involve intermediate storage in a salt dome.

"Servicing agreement" means (i) in the case of an electric utility, an agreement between the owner of a clean coal facility and such electric utility, which agreement shall have terms and conditions meeting the requirements of paragraph (3) of subsection (d) of Section 1-75, and (ii) in the case of an alternative retail electric supplier, an agreement between the owner of a clean coal facility and such alternative retail electric supplier, which agreement shall have terms and conditions meeting the requirements of Section 16-115(d) (5) of the Public Utilities Act.

"Substitute natural gas" or "SNG" means a gas manufactured by gasification of hydrocarbon feedstock, which is substantially interchangeable in use and distribution with conventional natural gas.

"Total resource cost test" or "TRC test" means a standard that is met if, for an investment in energy efficiency or

demand-response measures, the benefit-cost ratio is greater than one. The benefit-cost ratio is the ratio of the net present value of the total benefits of the program to the net present value of the total costs as calculated over the lifetime of the measures. A total resource cost test compares the sum of avoided electric utility costs, representing the benefits that accrue to the system and the participant in the delivery of those efficiency measures, as well as other quantifiable societal benefits, including avoided natural gas utility costs, to the sum of all incremental costs of end-use measures that are implemented due to the program (including both utility and participant contributions), plus costs to administer, deliver, and evaluate each demand-side program, to quantify the net savings obtained by substituting the demand-side program for supply resources. In calculating avoided costs of power and energy that an electric utility would otherwise have had to acquire, reasonable estimates shall be included of financial costs likely to be imposed by future regulations and legislation on emissions of greenhouse gases. (Source: P.A. 95-481, eff. 8-28-07; 95-913, eff. 1-1-09; 95-1027, eff. 6-1-09; revised 1-14-09.)

Section 10. The Public Utilities Act is amended by changing Sections 2-103, 8-103, 9-201, 10-102, 10-103, 10-110, 10-111, and 10-201 and by adding Sections 8-104, 8-105, 9-229, 16-111.7, 16-111.8, 16-115D, 19-140, and 19-145 as follows:

(220 ILCS 5/2-103) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 2-103)

Sec. 2-103. (a) No former member of the Commission or person formerly employed by the Commission may, ~~for a period of one year following the termination of his services with the Commission,~~ represent any person before the Commission in any a professional capacity with respect to any particular Commission proceeding matter in which he participated personally and substantially as a member or employee of the Commission.

(b) No former member of the Commission may appear before the Commission ~~act as agent or attorney for any one other than the State of Illinois~~ in connection with any ~~particular~~ Commission proceeding for a period of 2 years following the termination of service with the Commission ~~matter in which he participated personally and substantially as a member of the Commission, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of service, investigation, or otherwise.~~

(c) No former member of the Commission may accept any employment with any entity public utility subject to Commission regulation regulations or certification, or with any industry trade association that (i) receives a majority of its funding from entities regulated or certificated by the Commission; or (ii) has a majority of members regulated or certificated by the Commission, for one year following the termination of ~~his~~

services with the Commission; provided such prohibition shall extend to 2 years for commissioners appointed subsequent to the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly.

(d) No entity ~~public utility~~ subject to Commission regulation or certification or any industry trade association that (i) receives a majority of its funding from entities regulated or certificated by the Commission; or (ii) has a majority of members regulated or certificated by the Commission shall offer a former member of the Commission employment for a period of one year following the termination of the former Commission member's service with the Commission, or otherwise hire such person as an agent, consultant, or attorney where such employment or contractual relation would be in violation of this Section; provided such prohibition on offers of employment shall extend to 2 years for those commissioners appointed subsequent to the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly.

(Source: P.A. 84-617.)

(220 ILCS 5/8-103)

Sec. 8-103. Energy efficiency and demand-response measures.

(a) It is the policy of the State that electric utilities are required to use cost-effective energy efficiency and demand-response measures to reduce delivery load. Requiring

investment in cost-effective energy efficiency and demand-response measures will reduce direct and indirect costs to consumers by decreasing environmental impacts and by avoiding or delaying the need for new generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure. It serves the public interest to allow electric utilities to recover costs for reasonably and prudently incurred expenses for energy efficiency and demand-response measures. As used in this Section, "cost-effective" means that the measures satisfy the total resource cost test. The low-income measures described in subsection (f)(4) of this Section shall not be required to meet the total resource cost test. For purposes of this Section, the terms "energy-efficiency", "demand-response", "electric utility", and "total resource cost test" shall have the meanings set forth in the Illinois Power Agency Act. For purposes of this Section, the amount per kilowatthour means the total amount paid for electric service expressed on a per kilowatthour basis. For purposes of this Section, the total amount paid for electric service includes without limitation estimated amounts paid for supply, transmission, distribution, surcharges, and add-on-taxes.

(b) Electric utilities shall implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures to meet the following incremental annual energy savings goals:

- (1) 0.2% of energy delivered in the year commencing June 1, 2008;

(2) 0.4% of energy delivered in the year commencing June 1, 2009;

(3) 0.6% of energy delivered in the year commencing June 1, 2010;

(4) 0.8% of energy delivered in the year commencing June 1, 2011;

(5) 1% of energy delivered in the year commencing June 1, 2012;

(6) 1.4% of energy delivered in the year commencing June 1, 2013;

(7) 1.8% of energy delivered in the year commencing June 1, 2014; and

(8) 2% of energy delivered in the year commencing June 1, 2015 and each year thereafter.

(c) Electric utilities shall implement cost-effective demand-response measures to reduce peak demand by 0.1% over the prior year for eligible retail customers, as defined in Section 16-111.5 of this Act. This requirement commences June 1, 2008 and continues for 10 years.

(d) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of this Section, an electric utility shall reduce the amount of energy efficiency and demand-response measures implemented in any single year by an amount necessary to limit the estimated average increase in the amounts paid by retail customers in connection with electric service due to the cost of those measures to:



(1) in 2008, no more than 0.5% of the amount paid per kilowatthour by those customers during the year ending May 31, 2007;

(2) in 2009, the greater of an additional 0.5% of the amount paid per kilowatthour by those customers during the year ending May 31, 2008 or 1% of the amount paid per kilowatthour by those customers during the year ending May 31, 2007;

(3) in 2010, the greater of an additional 0.5% of the amount paid per kilowatthour by those customers during the year ending May 31, 2009 or 1.5% of the amount paid per kilowatthour by those customers during the year ending May 31, 2007;

(4) in 2011, the greater of an additional 0.5% of the amount paid per kilowatthour by those customers during the year ending May 31, 2010 or 2% of the amount paid per kilowatthour by those customers during the year ending May 31, 2007; and

(5) thereafter, the amount of energy efficiency and demand-response measures implemented for any single year shall be reduced by an amount necessary to limit the estimated average net increase due to the cost of these measures included in the amounts paid by eligible retail customers in connection with electric service to no more than the greater of 2.015% of the amount paid per kilowatthour by those customers during the year ending May

31, 2007 or the incremental amount per kilowatthour paid for these measures in 2011.

No later than June 30, 2011, the Commission shall review the limitation on the amount of energy efficiency and demand-response measures implemented pursuant to this Section and report to the General Assembly its findings as to whether that limitation unduly constrains the procurement of energy efficiency and demand-response measures.

(e) Electric utilities shall be responsible for overseeing the design, development, and filing of energy efficiency and demand-response plans with the Commission. Electric utilities shall implement 100% of the demand-response measures in the plans. Electric utilities shall implement 75% of the energy efficiency measures approved by the Commission, and may, as part of that implementation, outsource various aspects of program development and implementation. The remaining 25% of those energy efficiency measures approved by the Commission shall be implemented by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and must be designed in conjunction with the utility and the filing process. The Department may outsource development and implementation of energy efficiency measures. A minimum of 10% of the entire portfolio of cost-effective energy efficiency measures shall be procured from units of local government, municipal corporations, school districts, and community college districts. The Department shall coordinate the implementation of these measures.

The apportionment of the dollars to cover the costs to implement the Department's share of the portfolio of energy efficiency measures shall be made to the Department once the Department has executed grants or contracts for energy efficiency measures and provided supporting documentation for those grants and the contracts to the utility.

The details of the measures implemented by the Department shall be submitted by the Department to the Commission in connection with the utility's filing regarding the energy efficiency and demand-response measures that the utility implements.

A utility providing approved energy efficiency and demand-response measures in the State shall be permitted to recover costs of those measures through an automatic adjustment clause tariff filed with and approved by the Commission. The tariff shall be established outside the context of a general rate case. Each year the Commission shall initiate a review to reconcile any amounts collected with the actual costs and to determine the required adjustment to the annual tariff factor to match annual expenditures.

Each utility shall include, in its recovery of costs, the costs estimated for both the utility's and the Department's implementation of energy efficiency and demand-response measures. Costs collected by the utility for measures implemented by the Department shall be submitted to the Department pursuant to Section 605-323 of the Civil

Administrative Code of Illinois and shall be used by the Department solely for the purpose of implementing these measures. A utility shall not be required to advance any moneys to the Department but only to forward such funds as it has collected. The Department shall report to the Commission on an annual basis regarding the costs actually incurred by the Department in the implementation of the measures. Any changes to the costs of energy efficiency measures as a result of plan modifications shall be appropriately reflected in amounts recovered by the utility and turned over to the Department.

The portfolio of measures, administered by both the utilities and the Department, shall, in combination, be designed to achieve the annual savings targets described in subsections (b) and (c) of this Section, as modified by subsection (d) of this Section.

The utility and the Department shall agree upon a reasonable portfolio of measures and determine the measurable corresponding percentage of the savings goals associated with measures implemented by the utility or Department.

No utility shall be assessed a penalty under subsection (f) of this Section for failure to make a timely filing if that failure is the result of a lack of agreement with the Department with respect to the allocation of responsibilities or related costs or target assignments. In that case, the Department and the utility shall file their respective plans with the Commission and the Commission shall determine an

appropriate division of measures and programs that meets the requirements of this Section.

If the Department is unable to meet incremental annual performance goals for the portion of the portfolio implemented by the Department, then the utility and the Department shall jointly submit a modified filing to the Commission explaining the performance shortfall and recommending an appropriate course going forward, including any program modifications that may be appropriate in light of the evaluations conducted under item (7) of subsection (f) of this Section. In this case, the utility obligation to collect the Department's costs and turn over those funds to the Department under this subsection (e) shall continue only if the Commission approves the modifications to the plan proposed by the Department.

(f) No later than November 15, 2007, each electric utility shall file an energy efficiency and demand-response plan with the Commission to meet the energy efficiency and demand-response standards for 2008 through 2010. Every 3 years thereafter, each electric utility shall file, no later than October 1, an energy efficiency and demand-response plan with the Commission. If a utility does not file such a plan by October 1 of an applicable year, it shall face a penalty of \$100,000 per day until the plan is filed. Each utility's plan shall set forth the utility's proposals to meet the utility's portion of the energy efficiency standards identified in subsection (b) and the demand-response standards identified in

subsection (c) of this Section as modified by subsections (d) and (e), taking into account the unique circumstances of the utility's service territory. The Commission shall seek public comment on the utility's plan and shall issue an order approving or disapproving each plan within 3 months after its submission. If the Commission disapproves a plan, the Commission shall, within 30 days, describe in detail the reasons for the disapproval and describe a path by which the utility may file a revised draft of the plan to address the Commission's concerns satisfactorily. If the utility does not refile with the Commission within 60 days, the utility shall be subject to penalties at a rate of \$100,000 per day until the plan is filed. This process shall continue, and penalties shall accrue, until the utility has successfully filed a portfolio of energy efficiency and demand-response measures. Penalties shall be deposited into the Energy Efficiency Trust Fund. In submitting proposed energy efficiency and demand-response plans and funding levels to meet the savings goals adopted by this Act the utility shall:

(1) Demonstrate that its proposed energy efficiency and demand-response measures will achieve the requirements that are identified in subsections (b) and (c) of this Section, as modified by subsections (d) and (e).

(2) Present specific proposals to implement new building and appliance standards that have been placed into effect.

(3) Present estimates of the total amount paid for electric service expressed on a per kilowatthour basis associated with the proposed portfolio of measures designed to meet the requirements that are identified in subsections (b) and (c) of this Section, as modified by subsections (d) and (e).

(4) Coordinate with the Department ~~and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services~~ to present a portfolio of energy efficiency measures targeted to households at or below 150% of the poverty level at a level proportionate to those households' share of total annual utility revenues in Illinois.

(5) Demonstrate that its overall portfolio of energy efficiency and demand-response measures, not including programs covered by item (4) of this subsection (f), are cost-effective using the total resource cost test and represent a diverse cross-section of opportunities for customers of all rate classes to participate in the programs.

(6) Include a proposed cost-recovery tariff mechanism to fund the proposed energy efficiency and demand-response measures and to ensure the recovery of the prudently and reasonably incurred costs of Commission-approved programs.

(7) Provide for an annual independent evaluation of the performance of the cost-effectiveness of the utility's portfolio of measures and the Department's portfolio of

measures, as well as a full review of the 3-year results of the broader net program impacts and, to the extent practical, for adjustment of the measures on a going-forward basis as a result of the evaluations. The resources dedicated to evaluation shall not exceed 3% of portfolio resources in any given year.

(g) No more than 3% of energy efficiency and demand-response program revenue may be allocated for demonstration of breakthrough equipment and devices.

(h) This Section does not apply to an electric utility that on December 31, 2005 provided electric service to fewer than 100,000 customers in Illinois.

(i) If, after 2 years, an electric utility fails to meet the efficiency standard specified in subsection (b) of this Section, as modified by subsections (d) and (e), it shall make a contribution to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The combined total liability for failure to meet the goal shall be \$1,000,000, which shall be assessed as follows: a large electric utility shall pay \$665,000, and a medium electric utility shall pay \$335,000. If, after 3 years, an electric utility fails to meet the efficiency standard specified in subsection (b) of this Section, as modified by subsections (d) and (e), it shall make a contribution to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The combined total liability for failure to meet the goal shall be \$1,000,000, which shall be assessed as follows: a large electric utility



shall pay \$665,000, and a medium electric utility shall pay \$335,000. In addition, the responsibility for implementing the energy efficiency measures of the utility making the payment shall be transferred to the Illinois Power Agency if, after 3 years, or in any subsequent 3-year period, the utility fails to meet the efficiency standard specified in subsection (b) of this Section, as modified by subsections (d) and (e). The Agency shall implement a competitive procurement program to procure resources necessary to meet the standards specified in this Section as modified by subsections (d) and (e), with costs for those resources to be recovered in the same manner as products purchased through the procurement plan as provided in Section 16-111.5. The Director shall implement this requirement in connection with the procurement plan as provided in Section 16-111.5.

For purposes of this Section, (i) a "large electric utility" is an electric utility that, on December 31, 2005, served more than 2,000,000 electric customers in Illinois; (ii) a "medium electric utility" is an electric utility that, on December 31, 2005, served 2,000,000 or fewer but more than 100,000 electric customers in Illinois; and (iii) Illinois electric utilities that are affiliated by virtue of a common parent company are considered a single electric utility.

(j) If, after 3 years, or any subsequent 3-year period, the Department fails to implement the Department's share of energy efficiency measures required by the standards in subsection

(b), then the Illinois Power Agency may assume responsibility for and control of the Department's share of the required energy efficiency measures. The Agency shall implement a competitive procurement program to procure resources necessary to meet the standards specified in this Section, with the costs of these resources to be recovered in the same manner as provided for the Department in this Section.

(k) No electric utility shall be deemed to have failed to meet the energy efficiency standards to the extent any such failure is due to a failure of the Department or the Agency.

(Source: P.A. 95-481, eff. 8-28-07; 95-876, eff. 8-21-08.)

(220 ILCS 5/8-104 new)

Sec. 8-104. Natural gas energy efficiency programs.

(a) It is the policy of the State that natural gas utilities and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity are required to use cost-effective energy efficiency to reduce direct and indirect costs to consumers. It serves the public interest to allow natural gas utilities to recover costs for reasonably and prudently incurred expenses for cost-effective energy efficiency measures.

(b) For purposes of this Section, "energy efficiency" means measures that reduce the amount of energy required to achieve a given end use and "cost-effective" means that the measures satisfy the total resource cost test which, for purposes of this Section, means a standard that is met if, for an

investment in energy efficiency, the benefit-cost ratio is greater than one. The benefit-cost ratio is the ratio of the net present value of the total benefits of the measures to the net present value of the total costs as calculated over the lifetime of the measures. The total resource cost test compares the sum of avoided natural gas utility costs, representing the benefits that accrue to the system and the participant in the delivery of those efficiency measures, as well as other quantifiable societal benefits, including avoided electric utility costs, to the sum of all incremental costs of end use measures (including both utility and participant contributions), plus costs to administer, deliver, and evaluate each demand-side measure, to quantify the net savings obtained by substituting demand-side measures for supply resources. In calculating avoided costs, reasonable estimates shall be included for financial costs likely to be imposed by future regulation of emissions of greenhouse gases. The low-income programs described in item (4) of subsection (f) of this Section shall not be required to meet the total resource cost test.

(c) Natural gas utilities shall implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures to meet at least the following natural gas savings requirements, which shall be based upon the total amount of gas delivered to retail customers, other than the customers described in subsection (m) of this Section, during calendar year 2009 multiplied by the applicable

percentage. Natural gas utilities may comply with this Section by meeting the annual incremental savings goal in the applicable year or by showing that total savings associated with measures implemented after May 31, 2011 were equal to the sum of each annual incremental savings requirement from May 31, 2011 through the end of the applicable year:

(1) 0.2% by May 31, 2012;

(2) an additional 0.4% by May 31, 2013, increasing total savings to .6%;

(3) an additional 0.6% by May 31, 2014, increasing total savings to 1.2%;

(4) an additional 0.8% by May 31, 2015, increasing total savings to 2.0%;

(5) an additional 1% by May 31, 2016, increasing total savings to 3.0%;

(6) an additional 1.2% by May 31, 2017, increasing total savings to 4.2%;

(7) an additional 1.4% by May 31, 2018, increasing total savings to 5.6%;

(8) an additional 1.5% by May 31, 2019, increasing total savings to 7.1%; and

(9) an additional 1.5% in each 12-month period thereafter.

(d) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (c) of this Section, a natural gas utility shall limit the amount of energy efficiency implemented in any 3-year reporting period

established by subsection (f) of Section 8-104 of this Act, by an amount necessary to limit the estimated average increase in the amounts paid by retail customers in connection with natural gas service to no more than 2% in the applicable 3-year reporting period. The energy savings requirements in subsection (c) of this Section may be reduced by the Commission for the subject plan, if the utility demonstrates by substantial evidence that it is highly unlikely that the requirements could be achieved without exceeding the applicable spending limits in any 3-year reporting period. No later than September 1, 2013, the Commission shall review the limitation on the amount of energy efficiency measures implemented pursuant to this Section and report to the General Assembly, in the report required by subsection (k) of this Section, its findings as to whether that limitation unduly constrains the procurement of energy efficiency measures.

(e) Natural gas utilities shall be responsible for overseeing the design, development, and filing of their efficiency plans with the Commission. The utility shall utilize 75% of the available funding associated with energy efficiency programs approved by the Commission, and may outsource various aspects of program development and implementation. The remaining 25% of available funding shall be used by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to implement energy efficiency measures that achieve no less than 20% of the requirements of subsection (c) of this Section. Such measures

shall be designed in conjunction with the utility and approved by the Commission. The Department may outsource development and implementation of energy efficiency measures. A minimum of 10% of the entire portfolio of cost-effective energy efficiency measures shall be procured from local government, municipal corporations, school districts, and community college districts. Five percent of the entire portfolio of cost-effective energy efficiency measures may be granted to local government and municipal corporations for market transformation initiatives. The Department shall coordinate the implementation of these measures and shall integrate delivery of natural gas efficiency programs with electric efficiency programs delivered pursuant to Section 8-103 of this Act, unless the Department can show that integration is not feasible.

The apportionment of the dollars to cover the costs to implement the Department's share of the portfolio of energy efficiency measures shall be made to the Department once the Department has executed grants or contracts for energy efficiency measures and provided supporting documentation for those grants and the contracts to the utility.

The details of the measures implemented by the Department shall be submitted by the Department to the Commission in connection with the utility's filing regarding the energy efficiency measures that the utility implements.

A utility providing approved energy efficiency measures in

this State shall be permitted to recover costs of those measures through an automatic adjustment clause tariff filed with and approved by the Commission. The tariff shall be established outside the context of a general rate case and shall be applicable to the utility's customers other than the customers described in subsection (m) of this Section. Each year the Commission shall initiate a review to reconcile any amounts collected with the actual costs and to determine the required adjustment to the annual tariff factor to match annual expenditures.

Each utility shall include, in its recovery of costs, the costs estimated for both the utility's and the Department's implementation of energy efficiency measures. Costs collected by the utility for measures implemented by the Department shall be submitted to the Department pursuant to Section 605-323 of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois and shall be used by the Department solely for the purpose of implementing these measures. A utility shall not be required to advance any moneys to the Department but only to forward such funds as it has collected. The Department shall report to the Commission on an annual basis regarding the costs actually incurred by the Department in the implementation of the measures. Any changes to the costs of energy efficiency measures as a result of plan modifications shall be appropriately reflected in amounts recovered by the utility and turned over to the Department.

The portfolio of measures, administered by both the

utilities and the Department, shall, in combination, be designed to achieve the annual energy savings requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this Section, as modified by subsection (d) of this Section.

The utility and the Department shall agree upon a reasonable portfolio of measures and determine the measurable corresponding percentage of the savings goals associated with measures implemented by the Department.

No utility shall be assessed a penalty under subsection (f) of this Section for failure to make a timely filing if that failure is the result of a lack of agreement with the Department with respect to the allocation of responsibilities or related costs or target assignments. In that case, the Department and the utility shall file their respective plans with the Commission and the Commission shall determine an appropriate division of measures and programs that meets the requirements of this Section.

If the Department is unable to meet performance requirements for the portion of the portfolio implemented by the Department, then the utility and the Department shall jointly submit a modified filing to the Commission explaining the performance shortfall and recommending an appropriate course going forward, including any program modifications that may be appropriate in light of the evaluations conducted under item (8) of subsection (f) of this Section. In this case, the utility obligation to collect the Department's costs and turn



over those funds to the Department under this subsection (e) shall continue only if the Commission approves the modifications to the plan proposed by the Department.

(f) No later than October 1, 2010, each gas utility shall file an energy efficiency plan with the Commission to meet the energy efficiency standards through May 31, 2014. Every 3 years thereafter, each utility shall file, no later than October 1, an energy efficiency plan with the Commission. If a utility does not file such a plan by October 1 of the applicable year, then it shall face a penalty of \$100,000 per day until the plan is filed. Each utility's plan shall set forth the utility's proposals to meet the utility's portion of the energy efficiency standards identified in subsection (c) of this Section, as modified by subsection (d) of this Section, taking into account the unique circumstances of the utility's service territory. The Commission shall seek public comment on the utility's plan and shall issue an order approving or disapproving each plan. If the Commission disapproves a plan, the Commission shall, within 30 days, describe in detail the reasons for the disapproval and describe a path by which the utility may file a revised draft of the plan to address the Commission's concerns satisfactorily. If the utility does not refile with the Commission within 60 days after the disapproval, the utility shall be subject to penalties at a rate of \$100,000 per day until the plan is filed. This process shall continue, and penalties shall accrue, until the utility

has successfully filed a portfolio of energy efficiency measures. Penalties shall be deposited into the Energy Efficiency Trust Fund and the cost of any such penalties may not be recovered from ratepayers. In submitting proposed energy efficiency plans and funding levels to meet the savings goals adopted by this Act the utility shall:

(1) Demonstrate that its proposed energy efficiency measures will achieve the requirements that are identified in subsection (c) of this Section, as modified by subsection (d) of this Section.

(2) Present specific proposals to implement new building and appliance standards that have been placed into effect.

(3) Present estimates of the total amount paid for gas service expressed on a per therm basis associated with the proposed portfolio of measures designed to meet the requirements that are identified in subsection (c) of this Section, as modified by subsection (d) of this Section.

(4) Coordinate with the Department to present a portfolio of energy efficiency measures proportionate to the share of total annual utility revenues in Illinois from households at or below 150% of the poverty level. Such programs shall be targeted to households with incomes at or below 80% of area median income.

(5) Demonstrate that its overall portfolio of energy efficiency measures, not including programs covered by

item (4) of this subsection (f), are cost-effective using the total resource cost test and represent a diverse cross section of opportunities for customers of all rate classes to participate in the programs.

(6) Demonstrate that a gas utility affiliated with an electric utility that is required to comply with Section 8-103 of this Act has integrated gas and electric efficiency measures into a single program that reduces program or participant costs and appropriately allocates costs to gas and electric ratepayers. The Department shall integrate all gas and electric programs it delivers in any such utilities' service territories, unless the Department can show that integration is not feasible or appropriate.

(7) Include a proposed cost recovery tariff mechanism to fund the proposed energy efficiency measures and to ensure the recovery of the prudently and reasonably incurred costs of Commission-approved programs.

(8) Provide for quarterly status reports tracking implementation of and expenditures for the utility's portfolio of measures and the Department's portfolio of measures, an annual independent review, and a full independent evaluation of the 3-year results of the performance and the cost-effectiveness of the utility's and Department's portfolios of measures and broader net program impacts and, to the extent practical, for adjustment of the measures on a going forward basis as a

result of the evaluations. The resources dedicated to evaluation shall not exceed 3% of portfolio resources in any given 3-year period.

(g) No more than 3% of expenditures on energy efficiency measures may be allocated for demonstration of breakthrough equipment and devices.

(h) Illinois natural gas utilities that are affiliated by virtue of a common parent company may, at the utilities' request, be considered a single natural gas utility for purposes of complying with this Section.

(i) If, after 3 years, a gas utility fails to meet the efficiency standard specified in subsection (c) of this Section as modified by subsection (d), then it shall make a contribution to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The total liability for failure to meet the goal shall be assessed as follows:

- (1) a large gas utility shall pay \$600,000;
- (2) a medium gas utility shall pay \$400,000; and
- (3) a small gas utility shall pay \$200,000.

For purposes of this Section, (i) a "large gas utility" is a gas utility that on December 31, 2008, served more than 1,500,000 gas customers in Illinois; (ii) a "medium gas utility" is a gas utility that on December 31, 2008, served fewer than 1,500,000, but more than 500,000 gas customers in Illinois; and (iii) a "small gas utility" is a gas utility that on December 31, 2008, served fewer than 500,000 and more than

100,000 gas customers in Illinois. The costs of this contribution may not be recovered from ratepayers.

If a gas utility fails to meet the efficiency standard specified in subsection (c) of this Section, as modified by subsection (d) of this Section, in any 2 consecutive 3-year planning periods, then the responsibility for implementing the utility's energy efficiency measures shall be transferred to an independent program administrator selected by the Commission. Reasonable and prudent costs incurred by the independent program administrator to meet the efficiency standard specified in subsection (c) of this Section, as modified by subsection (d) of this Section, may be recovered from the customers of the affected gas utilities, other than customers described in subsection (m) of this Section. The utility shall provide the independent program administrator with all information and assistance necessary to perform the program administrator's duties including but not limited to customer, account, and energy usage data, and shall allow the program administrator to include inserts in customer bills. The utility may recover reasonable costs associated with any such assistance.

(j) No utility shall be deemed to have failed to meet the energy efficiency standards to the extent any such failure is due to a failure of the Department.

(k) Not later than January 1, 2012, the Commission shall develop and solicit public comment on a plan to foster

statewide coordination and consistency between statutorily mandated natural gas and electric energy efficiency programs to reduce program or participant costs or to improve program performance. Not later than September 1, 2013, the Commission shall issue a report to the General Assembly containing its findings and recommendations.

(l) This Section does not apply to a gas utility that on January 1, 2009, provided gas service to fewer than 100,000 customers in Illinois.

(m) Subsections (a) through (k) of this Section do not apply to customers of a natural gas utility that have a North American Industry Classification System code number that is 22111 or any such code number beginning with the digits 31, 32, or 33 and (i) annual usage in the aggregate of 4 million therms or more within the service territory of the affected gas utility or with aggregate usage of 8 million therms or more in this State and complying with the provisions of item (l) of this subsection (m); or (ii) using natural gas as feedstock and meeting the usage requirements described in item (i) of this subsection (m), to the extent such annual feedstock usage is greater than 60% of the customer's total annual usage of natural gas.

(1) Customers described in this subsection (m) of this Section shall apply, on a form approved on or before October 1, 2009 by the Department, to the Department to be designated as a self-directing customer ("SDC") or as an

exempt customer using natural gas as a feedstock from which other products are made, including, but not limited to, feedstock for a hydrogen plant, on or before the 1st day of February, 2010. Thereafter, application may be made not less than 6 months before the filing date of the gas utility energy efficiency plan described in subsection (f) of this Section; however, a new customer that commences taking service from a natural gas utility after February 1, 2010 may apply to become a SDC or exempt customer up to 30 days after beginning service. Such application shall contain the following:

(A) the customer's certification that, at the time of its application, it qualifies to be a SDC or exempt customer described in this subsection (m) of this Section;

(B) in the case of a SDC, the customer's certification that it has established or will establish by the beginning of the utility's 3-year planning period commencing subsequent to the application, and will maintain for accounting purposes, an energy efficiency reserve account and that the customer will accrue funds in said account to be held for the purpose of funding, in whole or in part, energy efficiency measures of the customer's choosing, which may include, but are not limited to, projects involving combined heat and power systems

that use the same energy source both for the generation of electrical or mechanical power and the production of steam or another form of useful thermal energy or the use of combustible gas produced from biomass, or both;

(C) in the case of a SDC, the customer's certification that annual funding levels for the energy efficiency reserve account will be equal to 2% of the customer's cost of natural gas, composed of the customer's commodity cost and the delivery service charges paid to the gas utility, or \$150,000, whichever is less;

(D) in the case of a SDC, the customer's certification that the required reserve account balance will be capped at 3 years' worth of accruals and that the customer may, at its option, make further deposits to the account to the extent such deposit would increase the reserve account balance above the designated cap level;

(E) in the case of a SDC, the customer's certification that by October 1 of each year, beginning no sooner than October 1, 2012, the customer will report to the Department information, for the 12-month period ending May 31 of the same year, on all deposits and reductions, if any, to the reserve account during the reporting year, and to the extent deposits to the reserve account in any year are in an amount less than



\$150,000, the basis for such reduced deposits; reserve account balances by month; a description of energy efficiency measures undertaken by the customer and paid for in whole or in part with funds from the reserve account; an estimate of the energy saved, or to be saved, by the measure; and that the report shall include a verification by an officer or plant manager of the customer or by a registered professional engineer or certified energy efficiency trade professional that the funds withdrawn from the reserve account were used for the energy efficiency measures;

(F) in the case of an exempt customer, the customer's certification of the level of gas usage as feedstock in the customer's operation in a typical year and that it will provide information establishing this level, upon request of the Department;

(G) in the case of either an exempt customer or a SDC, the customer's certification that it has provided the gas utility or utilities serving the customer with a copy of the application as filed with the Department;

(H) in the case of either an exempt customer or a SDC, certification of the natural gas utility or utilities serving the customer in Illinois including the natural gas utility accounts that are the subject of the application; and

(I) in the case of either an exempt customer or a

SDC, a verification signed by a plant manager or an authorized corporate officer attesting to the truthfulness and accuracy of the information contained in the application.

(2) The Department shall review the application to determine that it contains the information described in provisions (A) through (I) of item (1) of this subsection (m), as applicable. The review shall be completed within 30 days after the date the application is filed with the Department. Absent a determination by the Department within the 30-day period, the applicant shall be considered to be a SDC or exempt customer, as applicable, for all subsequent 3-year planning periods, as of the date of filing the application described in this subsection (m). If the Department determines that the application does not contain the applicable information described in provisions (A) through (I) of item (1) of this subsection (m), it shall notify the customer, in writing, of its determination that the application does not contain the required information and identify the information that is missing, and the customer shall provide the missing information within 15 working days after the date of receipt of the Department's notification.

(3) The Department shall have the right to audit the information provided in the customer's application and annual reports to ensure continued compliance with the

requirements of this subsection. Based on the audit, if the Department determines the customer is no longer in compliance with the requirements of items (A) through (I) of item (1) of this subsection (m), as applicable, the Department shall notify the customer in writing of the noncompliance. The customer shall have 30 days to establish its compliance, and failing to do so, may have its status as a SDC or exempt customer revoked by the Department. The Department shall treat all information provided by any customer seeking SDC status or exemption from the provisions of this Section as strictly confidential.

(4) Upon request, or on its own motion, the Commission may open an investigation, no more than once every 3 years and not before October 1, 2014, to evaluate the effectiveness of the self-directing program described in this subsection (m).

(n) The applicability of this Section to customers described in subsection (m) of this Section is conditioned on the existence of the SDC program. In no event will any provision of this Section apply to such customers after January 1, 2020.

(220 ILCS 5/8-105 new)

Sec. 8-105. Financial assistance; electric and gas utilities.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, an

electric or gas utility serving more than 100,000 retail customers as of January 1, 2009, shall offer programs in 2010 and 2011 that are authorized under Section 16-111.5A of this Act or approved by the Commission specifically designed to provide bill payment assistance to customers in need. These programs shall include a percentage of income payment plan. After receiving a request from a utility for the approval of a proposed plan pursuant to this Section, the Commission shall render its decision within 120 days. If no decision is rendered within 120 days, then the request shall be deemed to be approved.

(b) The costs of any program offered by a gas utility in 2010 or 2011 and by an electric utility in 2011 under this Section, excluding utility information technology costs, shall be reimbursed from the Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund established in Section 13 of the Energy Assistance Act. The utility shall submit a bill to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity which shall be promptly paid out of such funds or may net such costs against monies it would otherwise remit to the Fund. In furtherance of these programs, the utilities have committed to make a contribution to the Fund, as described in subsection (b) of Section 13 of the Energy Assistance Act. The utility shall provide a report to the Commission on a quarterly basis accounting for monies reimbursed or netted through the Fund. Nothing in this Section shall preclude a utility from

recovering prudently incurred information technology costs associated with these programs in rates.

(c) This Section is repealed on December 31, 2011.

(220 ILCS 5/9-201) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 9-201)

Sec. 9-201. (a) Unless the Commission otherwise orders, and except as otherwise provided in this Section, no change shall be made by any public utility in any rate or other charge or classification, or in any rule, regulation, practice or contract relating to or affecting any rate or other charge, classification or service, or in any privilege or facility, except after 45 days' notice to the Commission and to the public as herein provided. Such notice shall be given by filing with the Commission and keeping open for public inspection new schedules or supplements stating plainly the change or changes to be made in the schedule or schedules then in force, and the time when the change or changes will go into effect, and by publication in a newspaper of general circulation or such other notice to persons affected by such change as may be prescribed by rule of the Commission. The Commission, for good cause shown, may allow changes without requiring the 45 days' notice herein provided for, by an order specifying the changes so to be made and the time when they shall take effect and the manner in which they shall be filed and published.

When any change is proposed in any rate or other charge, or classification, or in any rule, regulation, practice, or

contract relating to or affecting any rate or other charge, classification or service, or in any privilege or facility, such proposed change shall be plainly indicated on the new schedule filed with the Commission, by some character to be designated by the Commission, immediately preceding or following the item.

When any public utility providing water or sewer service proposes any change in any rate or other charge, or classification, or in any rule, regulation, practice, or contract relating to or affecting any rate or other charge, classification or service, or in any privilege or facility, such utility shall, in addition to the other notice requirements of this Act, provide notice of such change to all customers potentially affected by including a notice and description of such change, and of Commission procedures for intervention, in the first bill sent to each such customer after the filing of the proposed change.

(b) Whenever there shall be filed with the Commission any schedule stating an individual or joint rate or other charge, classification, contract, practice, rule or regulation, the Commission shall have power, and it is hereby given authority, either upon complaint or upon its own initiative without complaint, at once, and if it so orders, without answer or other formal pleadings by the interested public utility or utilities, but upon reasonable notice, to enter upon a hearing concerning the propriety of such rate or other charge,

classification, contract, practice, rule or regulation, and pending the hearing and decision thereon, such rate or other charge, classification, contract, practice, rule or regulation shall not go into effect. The period of suspension of such rate or other charge, classification, contract, practice, rule or regulation shall not extend more than 105 days beyond the time when such rate or other charge, classification, contract, practice, rule or regulation would otherwise go into effect unless the Commission, in its discretion, extends the period of suspension for a further period not exceeding 6 months.

All rates or other charges, classifications, contracts, practices, rules or regulations not so suspended shall, on the expiration of 45 days from the time of filing the same with the Commission, or of such lesser time as the Commission may grant, go into effect and be the established and effective rates or other charges, classifications, contracts, practices, rules and regulations, subject to the power of the Commission, after a hearing had on its own motion or upon complaint, as herein provided, to alter or modify the same.

Within 30 days after such changes have been authorized by the Commission, copies of the new or revised schedules shall be posted or filed in accordance with the terms of Section 9-103 of this Act, in such a manner that all changes shall be plainly indicated. The Commission shall incorporate into the period of suspension a review period of 4 business days during which the Commission may review and determine whether the new or revised

schedules comply with the Commission's decision approving a change to the public utility's rates. Such review period shall not extend the suspension period by more than 2 days. Absent notification to the contrary within the 4 business day period, the new or revised schedules shall be deemed approved.

(c) If the Commission enters upon a hearing concerning the propriety of any proposed rate or other charge, classification, contract, practice, rule or regulation, the Commission shall establish the rates or other charges, classifications, contracts, practices, rules or regulations proposed, in whole or in part, or others in lieu thereof, which it shall find to be just and reasonable. In such hearing, the burden of proof to establish the justness and reasonableness of the proposed rates or other charges, classifications, contracts, practices, rules or regulations, in whole and in part, shall be upon the utility. The utility, the staff of the Commission, the Attorney General, or any party to a proceeding initiated under this Section who has been granted intervenor status and submitted a post-hearing brief must be given the opportunity to present oral argument, if requested no later than the date for filing exceptions, on the propriety of any proposed rate or other charge, classification, contract, practice, rule, or regulation. No rate or other charge, classification, contract, practice, rule or regulation shall be found just and reasonable unless it is consistent with Sections of this Article.

(d) Except where compliance with Section 8-401 of this Act



is of urgent and immediate concern, no representative of a public utility may discuss with a commissioner, commissioner's assistant, or hearing examiner in a non-public setting a planned filing for a general rate increase. If a public utility makes a filing under this Section, then no substantive communication by any such person with a commissioner, commissioner's assistant or hearing examiner concerning the filing is permitted until a notice of hearing has been issued. After the notice of hearing has been issued, the only communications by any such person with a commissioner, commissioner's assistant, or hearing examiner concerning the filing permitted are communications permitted under Section 10-103 of this Act. If any such communication does occur, then within 5 days of the docket being initiated all details relating to the communication shall be placed on the public record of the proceeding. The record shall include any materials, whether written, recorded, filmed, or graphic in nature, produced or reproduced on any media, used in connection with the communication. The record shall reflect the names of all persons who transmitted, received, or were otherwise involved in the communication, the duration of the communication, and whether the communication occurred in person or by other means. In the case of an oral communication, the record shall also reflect the location or locations of all persons involved in the communication and, if the communication occurred by telephone, the telephone numbers for the callers

and recipients of the communication. A commissioner, commissioner's assistant, or hearing examiner who is involved in any such communication shall be recused from the affected proceeding. The Commission, or any commissioner or hearing examiner presiding over the proceeding shall, in the event of a violation of this Section, take action necessary to ensure that such violation does not prejudice any party or adversely affect the fairness of the proceedings including dismissing the affected proceeding. Nothing in this subsection (d) is intended to preclude otherwise allowable updates on issues that may be indirectly related to a general rate case filing because cost recovery for the underlying activity may be requested. Such updates may include, without limitation, issues related to outages and restoration, credit ratings, security issuances, reliability, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission matters, Federal Communications Commission matters, regional reliability organizations, consumer education, or labor matters, provided that such updates may not include cost recovery in a planned rate case.

(Source: P.A. 84-617.)

(220 ILCS 5/9-229 new)

Sec. 9-229. Consideration of attorney and expert compensation as an expense. The Commission shall specifically assess the justness and reasonableness of any amount expended by a public utility to compensate attorneys or technical

experts to prepare and litigate a general rate case filing.  
This issue shall be expressly addressed in the Commission's  
final order.

(220 ILCS 5/10-102) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 10-102)

Sec. 10-102. All meetings of the Commission shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act. Whenever the Commission holds an open meeting or, pursuant to such Act, closes any meeting, or portion of any meeting, it shall arrange for all discussions, deliberations and meetings ~~so closed~~ to be transcribed verbatim by a ~~stenographer,~~ certified court reporter, ~~or similar means.~~ The transcripts may be provided in an electronic format only. The Commission shall review and approve all such transcripts within 30 days of the date of the ~~closed~~ meeting, but at least 10 days prior to the expiration of the time within which an application for rehearing is due in any proceeding that is the subject of the meeting. When and when, in the Commission's ~~its~~ judgment, the exception of the Open Meetings Act relied upon for authorizing the closing of a ~~such~~ meeting, as recorded pursuant to Section 2a of the Open Meetings Act, is no longer applicable, such transcripts shall be made available to the public. Any party to a Commission proceeding shall be given access to the transcript of any closed meeting pertaining to such proceeding at least 10 days prior to the expiration of the time within which his application for rehearing must be filed, upon the signing of an

appropriate protective agreement. Transcripts of open Commission meetings shall be electronically posted in the relevant docket on the same day that the transcript is approved by the Commission.

(Source: P.A. 84-617.)

(220 ILCS 5/10-103) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 10-103)

Sec. 10-103. In all proceedings, investigations or hearings conducted by the Commission, except in the disposition of matters which the Commission is authorized to entertain or dispose of on an ex parte basis, any finding, decision or order made by the Commission shall be based exclusively on the record for decision in the case, which shall include only the transcript of testimony and exhibits together with all papers and requests filed in the proceeding, including, in contested cases, the documents and information described in Section 10-35 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act.

The provisions of Section 10-60 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act shall apply in full to Commission proceedings, including ratemaking cases, any provision of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

The provisions of Section 10-60 shall not apply, however, to communications between Commission employees who are engaged in investigatory, prosecutorial or advocacy functions and other parties to the proceeding, provided that such Commission

employees are still prohibited from communicating on an ex parte basis, as designated in Section 10-60, directly or indirectly, with members of the Commission, any hearing examiner in the proceeding, or any Commission employee who is or may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process of the proceeding. Any commissioner, hearing examiner, or other person ~~Commission employee~~ who is or may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process of a proceeding, who receives, or who makes or knowingly causes to be made, a communication prohibited by this Section or Section 10-60 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act as modified by this Section, shall place on the public record of the proceeding (1) any and all such written communications; (2) memoranda stating the substance of any and all such oral communications; and (3) any and all written responses and memoranda stating the substance of any and all oral responses to the materials described in clauses (1) and (2).

The Commission, or any commissioner or hearing examiner presiding over the proceeding, shall in the event of a violation of this Section, take whatever action is necessary to ensure that such violation does not prejudice any party or adversely affect the fairness of the proceedings, including dismissing the affected matter.

(Source: P.A. 88-45.)

Sec. 10-110. At the time fixed for any hearing upon a complaint, the complainant and the person or corporation complained of, and such persons or corporations as the Commission may allow to intervene, shall be entitled to be heard and to introduce evidence. The Commission shall issue process to enforce the attendance of all necessary witnesses. At the conclusion of such hearing the Commission shall make and render findings concerning the subject matter and facts inquired into and enter its order based thereon. A copy of such order, certified under the seal of the Commission, shall be served upon the person or corporation complained of, or his or its attorney, which order shall, of its own force, take effect and become operative twenty days after the service thereof, except as otherwise provided, and shall continue in force either for a period which may be designated therein or until changed or abrogated by the Commission. Where an order cannot, in the judgment of the Commission, be complied with within twenty days, the Commission may prescribe such additional time as in its judgment is reasonably necessary to comply with the order, and may, on application and for good cause shown, extend the time for compliance fixed in its order. A full and complete record shall be preserved of all proceedings had before the Commission, or any member thereof, or any hearing examiner, on any formal hearing had, and all testimony shall be taken down by a stenographer appointed by the Commission, and the parties shall be entitled to be heard in person or by attorney.

In any proceeding involving a public utility in which the lawfulness of any of its rates or other charges shall be called in question by any person or corporation furnishing a commodity or service in competition with said public utility at prices or charges not subject to regulation, the Commission may investigate the competitive prices or other charges demanded or received by such person or corporation for such commodity or service, including the rates or other charges applicable to the transportation thereof. The Commission may, on its own motion or that of any party to such proceeding, issue subpoenas to secure the appearance of witnesses or the production of books, papers, accounts and documents necessary to ascertain the prices, rates or other charges for such commodity or service or for the transportation thereof, and shall dismiss from such proceeding any party failing to comply with a subpoena so issued.

In case of an appeal from any order or decision of the Commission, under the terms of Sections 10-201 and 10-202 of this Act, a transcript of such testimony, together with all exhibits or copies thereof introduced and all information secured by the Commission on its own initiative and considered by it in rendering its order or decision (and required by this Act to be made a part of its records) and of the pleadings, records and proceedings in the case, including transcripts of Commission meetings prepared in accordance with Section 10-102 of this Act, shall constitute the record of the Commission:

Provided, that on appeal from an order or decision of the Commission, the person or corporation taking the appeal and the Commission may stipulate that a certain question or certain questions alone and a specified portion only of the evidence shall be certified to the court for its judgment, whereupon such stipulation and the question or questions and the evidence therein specified shall constitute the record on appeal.

Copies of all official documents and orders filed or deposited according to law in the office of the Commission, certified by the Chairman of the Commission or his or her designee to be true copies of the originals, under the official seal of the Commission, shall be evidence in like manner as the originals.

In any matter concerning which the Commission is authorized to hold a hearing, upon complaint or application or upon its own motion, notice shall be given to the public utility and to such other interested persons as the Commission shall deem necessary in the manner provided in Section 10-108, and the hearing shall be conducted in like manner as if complaint had been made to or by the Commission. But nothing in this Act shall be taken to limit or restrict the power of the Commission, summarily, of its own motion, with or without notice, to conduct any investigations or inquiries authorized by this Act, in such manner and by such means as it may deem proper, and to take such action as it may deem necessary in connection therewith. With respect to any rules, regulations,



decisions or orders which the Commission is authorized to issue without a hearing, and so issues, any public utility or other person or corporation affected thereby and deeming such rules, regulations, decisions or orders, or any of them, improper, unreasonable or contrary to law, may apply for a hearing thereon, setting forth specifically in such application every ground of objection which the applicant desires to urge against such rule, regulation, decision or order. The Commission may, in its discretion, grant or deny the application, and a hearing, if had, shall be subject to the provisions of this and the preceding Sections.

(Source: P.A. 84-617; 84-1118.)

(220 ILCS 5/10-111) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 10-111)

Sec. 10-111. In any hearing, proceeding, investigation or rulemaking conducted by the Commission, the Commission, commissioner or hearing examiner presiding, shall, after the close of evidentiary hearings, prepare a recommended or tentative decision, finding or order including a statement of findings and conclusions and the reasons or basis therefore ~~therefor~~, on all the material issues of fact, law or discretion presented on the record. Such recommended or tentative decision, finding or order shall be served on all parties who shall be entitled to a reasonable opportunity to respond thereto, either in briefs or comments otherwise to be filed or separately. The recommended or tentative decision, finding or

order and any responses thereto, shall be included in the record for decision. This Section shall not apply to any hearing, proceeding, or investigation conducted under Section 13-515.

(Source: P.A. 90-185, eff. 7-23-97.)

(220 ILCS 5/10-201) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 10-201)

Sec. 10-201. (a) Jurisdiction. Within 35 days from the date that a copy of the order or decision sought to be reviewed was served upon the party affected by any order or decision of the Commission refusing an application for a rehearing of any rule, regulation, order or decision of the Commission, including any order granting or denying interim rate relief, or within 35 days from the date that a copy of the order or decision sought to be reviewed was served upon the party affected by any final order or decision of the Commission upon and after a rehearing of any rule, regulation, order or decision of the Commission, including any order granting or denying interim rate relief, any person or corporation affected by such rule, regulation, order or decision, may appeal to the appellate court of the judicial district in which the subject matter of the hearing is situated, or if the subject matter of the hearing is situated in more than one district, then of any one of such districts, for the purpose of having the reasonableness or lawfulness of the rule, regulation, order or decision inquired into and determined.

The court first acquiring jurisdiction of any appeal from any rule, regulation, order or decision shall have and retain jurisdiction of such appeal and of all further appeals from the same rule, regulation, order or decision until such appeal is disposed of in such appellate court.

(b) Pleadings and Record. No proceeding to contest any rule, regulation, decision or order which the Commission is authorized to issue without a hearing and has so issued shall be brought in any court unless application shall have been first made to the Commission for a hearing thereon and until after such application has been acted upon by the Commission, nor shall any person or corporation in any court urge or rely upon any grounds not set forth in such application for a hearing before the Commission, but the Commission shall decide the questions presented by the application with all possible expedition consistent with the duties of the Commission. The party taking such an appeal shall file with the Commission written notice of the appeal. The Commission, upon the filing of such notice of appeal, shall, within 5 days thereafter, file with the clerk of the appellate court to which such appeal is taken a certified copy of the order appealed. The ~~from and within 20 days thereafter the party appealing shall furnish to the Commission~~ shall prepare either a copy of the transcript of the evidence, including exhibits and transcripts of Commission meetings prepared in accordance with Section 10-102 of this Act, or any portion of the record designated in ~~enter into a~~

stipulation that only certain questions are involved on appeal, which ~~transcript or~~ stipulation is to be included in the record provided for in Section 10-110. The Commission shall certify the record and file the same with the clerk of the appellate court to which such appeal is taken within 35 ~~15~~ days of the filing of the notice of appeal ~~being furnished the transcript or stipulation~~. The party serving such notice of appeal shall, within 5 days after the service of such notice upon the Commission, file a copy of the notice, with proof of service, with the clerk of the court to which such appeal is taken, and thereupon the appellate court shall have jurisdiction over the appeal. The appeal shall be heard according to the rules governing other civil cases, so far as the same are applicable.

(c) No appellate court shall permit a party affected by any rule, regulation, order or decision of the Commission to intervene or become a party plaintiff or appellant in such court who has not taken an appeal from such rule, regulation, order or decision in the manner as herein provided.

(d) No new or additional evidence may be introduced in any proceeding upon appeal from a rule, regulation, order or decision of the Commission, issued or confirmed after a hearing, but the appeal shall be heard on the record of the Commission as certified by it. The findings and conclusions of the Commission on questions of fact shall be held prima facie to be true and as found by the Commission; rules, regulations, orders or decisions of the Commission shall be held to be prima

facie reasonable, and the burden of proof upon all issues raised by the appeal shall be upon the person or corporation appealing from such rules, regulations, orders or decisions.

(e) Powers and duties of Reviewing Court:

(i) An appellate court to which any such appeal is taken shall have the power, and it shall be its duty, to hear and determine such appeal with all convenient speed. Any proceeding in any court in this State directly affecting a rule, regulation, order or decision of the Commission, or to which the Commission is a party, shall have priority in hearing and determination over all other civil proceedings pending in such court, excepting election contests.

(ii) If it appears that the Commission failed to receive evidence properly proffered, on a hearing or a rehearing, or an application therefor, the court shall remand the case, in whole or in part, to the Commission with instructions to receive the testimony so proffered and rejected, and to enter a new order based upon the evidence theretofore taken, and such new evidence as it is directed to receive, unless it shall appear that such new evidence would not be controlling, in which case the court shall so find in its order. If the court remands only part of the Commission's rule, regulation, order or decision, it shall determine without delay the lawfulness and reasonableness of any independent portions of the rule, regulation, order

or decision subject to appeal.

(iii) If the court determines that the Commission's rule, regulation, order or decision does not contain findings or analysis sufficient to allow an informed judicial review thereof, the court shall remand the rule, regulation, order or decision, in whole or in part, with instructions to the Commission to make the necessary findings or analysis.

(iv) The court shall reverse a Commission rule, regulation, order or decision, in whole or in part, if it finds that:

A. The findings of the Commission are not supported by substantial evidence based on the entire record of evidence presented to or before the Commission for and against such rule, regulation, order or decision; or

B. The rule, regulation, order or decision is without the jurisdiction of the Commission; or

C. The rule, regulation, order or decision is in violation of the State or federal constitution or laws; or

D. The proceedings or manner by which the Commission considered and decided its rule, regulation, order or decision were in violation of the State or federal constitution or laws, to the prejudice of the appellant.

(v) The court may affirm or reverse the rule,

regulation, order or decision of the Commission in whole or in part, or to remand the decision in whole or in part where a hearing has been held before the Commission, and to state the questions requiring further hearings or proceedings and to give such other instructions as may be proper.

(vi) When the court remands a rule, regulation, order or decision of the Commission, in whole or in part, the Commission shall enter its final order with respect to the remanded rule, regulation, order or decision no later than 6 months after the date of issuance of the court's mandate. The Commission shall enter its final order, with respect to any remanded matter pending before it on the effective date of this amendatory Act of 1988, no later than 6 months after the effective date of this amendatory Act of 1988. However, when the court mandates, or grants an extension of time which the court determines to be necessary for, the taking of additional evidence, the Commission shall enter an interim order within 6 months after the issuance of the mandate (or within 6 months after the effective date of this amendatory Act of 1988 in the case of a remanded matter pending before it on the effective date of this amendatory Act of 1988), and the Commission shall enter its final order within 5 months after the date the interim order was entered.

(f) When no appeal is taken from a rule, regulation, order

or decision of the Commission, as herein provided, parties affected by such rule, regulation, order or decision, shall be deemed to have waived the right to have the merits of the controversy reviewed by a court and there shall be no trial of the merits of any controversy in which such rule, regulation, order or decision was made, by any court to which application may be made for the enforcement of the same, or in any other judicial proceedings.

(Source: P.A. 88-1.)

(220 ILCS 5/16-111.7 new)

Sec. 16-111.7. On-bill financing program; electric utilities.

(a) The Illinois General Assembly finds that Illinois homes and businesses have the potential to save energy through conservation and cost-effective energy efficiency measures. Programs created pursuant to this Section will allow utility customers to purchase cost-effective energy efficiency measures with no required initial upfront payment, and to pay the cost of those products and services over time on their utility bill.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, an electric utility serving more than 100,000 customers on January 1, 2009 shall offer a Commission-approved on-bill financing program ("program") that allows its eligible retail customers, as that term is defined in Section 16-111.5 of this Act, who



own a residential single family home, duplex, or other residential building with 4 or less units, or condominium at which the electric service is being provided (i) to borrow funds from a third party lender in order to purchase electric energy efficiency measures approved under the program for installation in such home or condominium without any required upfront payment and (ii) to pay back such funds over time through the electric utility's bill. Based upon the process described in subsection (b-5) of this Section, small commercial retail customers, as that term is defined in Section 16-102 of this Act, who own the premises at which electric service is being provided may be included in such program. After receiving a request from an electric utility for approval of a proposed program and tariffs pursuant to this Section, the Commission shall render its decision within 120 days. If no decision is rendered within 120 days, then the request shall be deemed to be approved.

(b-5) Within 30 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly, the Commission shall convene a workshop process during which interested participants may discuss issues related to the program, including program design, eligible electric energy efficiency measures, vendor qualifications, and a methodology for ensuring ongoing compliance with such qualifications, financing, sample documents such as request for proposals, contracts and agreements, dispute resolution, pre-installment

and post-installment verification, and evaluation. The workshop process shall be completed within 150 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly.

(c) Not later than 60 days following completion of the workshop process described in subsection (b-5) of this Section, each electric utility subject to subsection (b) of this Section shall submit a proposed program to the Commission that contains the following components:

(1) A list of recommended electric energy efficiency measures that will be eligible for on-bill financing. An eligible electric energy efficiency measure ("measure") shall be defined by the following:

(A) the measure would be applied to or replace electric energy-using equipment; and

(B) application of the measure to equipment and systems will have estimated electricity savings (determined by rates in effect at the time of purchase), that are sufficient to cover the costs of implementing the measures, including finance charges and any program fees not recovered pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section. To assist the electric utility in identifying or approving measures, the utility may consult with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, as well as with retailers, technicians, and installers of electric energy

efficiency measures and energy auditors (collectively "vendors").

(2) The electric utility shall issue a request for proposals ("RFP") to lenders for purposes of providing financing to participants to pay for approved measures. The RFP criteria shall include, but not be limited to, the interest rate, origination fees, and credit terms. The utility shall select the winning bidders based on its evaluation of these criteria, with a preference for those bids containing the rates, fees, and terms most favorable to participants;

(3) The utility shall work with the lenders selected pursuant to the RFP process, and with vendors, to establish the terms and processes pursuant to which a participant can purchase eligible electric energy efficiency measures using the financing obtained from the lender. The vendor shall explain and offer the approved financing packaging to those customers identified in subsection (b) of this Section and shall assist customers in applying for financing. As part of the process, vendors shall also provide to participants information about any other incentives that may be available for the measures.

(4) The lender shall conduct credit checks or undertake other appropriate measures to limit credit risk, and shall review and approve or deny financing applications submitted by customers identified in subsection (b) of this

Section. Following the lender's approval of financing and the participant's purchase of the measure or measures, the lender shall forward payment information to the electric utility, and the utility shall add as a separate line item on the participant's utility bill a charge showing the amount due under the program each month.

(5) A loan issued to a participant pursuant to the program shall be the sole responsibility of the participant, and any dispute that may arise concerning the loan's terms, conditions, or charges shall be resolved between the participant and lender. Upon transfer of the property title for the premises at which the participant receives electric service from the utility or the participant's request to terminate service at such premises, the participant shall pay in full its electric utility bill, including all amounts due under the program, provided that this obligation may be modified as provided in subsection (g) of this Section. Amounts due under the program shall be deemed amounts owed for residential and, as appropriate, small commercial electric service.

(6) The electric utility shall remit payment in full to the lender each month on behalf of the participant. In the event a participant defaults on payment of its electric utility bill, the electric utility shall continue to remit all payments due under the program to the lender, and the utility shall be entitled to recover all costs related to a

participant's nonpayment through the automatic adjustment clause tariff established pursuant to Section 16-111.8 of this Act. In addition, the electric utility shall retain a security interest in the measure or measures purchased under the program, and the utility retains its right to disconnect a participant that defaults on the payment of its utility bill.

(7) The total outstanding amount financed under the program shall not exceed \$2.5 million for an electric utility or electric utilities under a single holding company, provided that the electric utility or electric utilities may petition the Commission for an increase in such amount.

(d) A program approved by the Commission shall also include the following criteria and guidelines for such program:

(1) guidelines for financing of measures installed under a program, including, but not limited to, RFP criteria and limits on both individual loan amounts and the duration of the loans;

(2) criteria and standards for identifying and approving measures;

(3) qualifications of vendors that will market or install measures, as well as a methodology for ensuring ongoing compliance with such qualifications;

(4) sample contracts and agreements necessary to implement the measures and program; and

(5) the types of data and information that utilities and vendors participating in the program shall collect for purposes of preparing the reports required under subsection (g) of this Section.

(e) The proposed program submitted by each electric utility shall be consistent with the provisions of this Section that define operational, financial and billing arrangements between and among program participants, vendors, lenders, and the electric utility.

(f) An electric utility shall recover all of the prudently incurred costs of offering a program approved by the Commission pursuant to this Section, including, but not limited to, all start-up and administrative costs and the costs for program evaluation. All prudently incurred costs under this Section shall be recovered from the residential and small commercial retail customer classes eligible to participate in the program through the automatic adjustment clause tariff established pursuant to Section 8-103 of this Act.

(g) An independent evaluation of a program shall be conducted after 3 years of the program's operation. The electric utility shall retain an independent evaluator who shall evaluate the effects of the measures installed under the program and the overall operation of the program, including but not limited to customer eligibility criteria and whether the payment obligation for permanent electric energy efficiency measures that will continue to provide benefits of energy

savings should attach to the meter location. As part of the evaluation process, the evaluator shall also solicit feedback from participants and interested stakeholders. The evaluator shall issue a report to the Commission on its findings no later than 4 years after the date on which the program commenced, and the Commission shall issue a report to the Governor and General Assembly including a summary of the information described in this Section as well as its recommendations as to whether the program should be discontinued, continued with modification or modifications or continued without modification, provided that any recommended modifications shall only apply prospectively and to measures not yet installed or financed.

(h) An electric utility offering a Commission-approved program pursuant to this Section shall not be required to comply with any other statute, order, rule, or regulation of this State that may relate to the offering of such program, provided that nothing in this Section is intended to limit the electric utility's obligation to comply with this Act and the Commission's orders, rules, and regulations, including Part 280 of Title 83 of the Illinois Administrative Code.

(i) The source of a utility customer's electric supply shall not disqualify a customer from participation in the utility's on-bill financing program. Customers of alternative retail electric suppliers may participate in the program under the same terms and conditions applicable to the utility's supply customers.

(220 ILCS 5/16-111.8 new)

Sec. 16-111.8. Automatic adjustment clause tariff; uncollectibles.

(a) An electric utility shall be permitted, at its election, to recover through an automatic adjustment clause tariff the incremental difference between its actual uncollectible amount as set forth in Account 904 in the utility's most recent annual FERC Form 1 and the uncollectible amount included in the utility's rates for the period reported in such annual FERC Form 1. The Commission may, in a proceeding to review a general rate case filed subsequent to the effective date of the tariff established under this Section, prospectively switch from using the actual uncollectible amount set forth in Account 904 to using net write-offs in such tariff, but only if net write-offs are also used to determine the utility's uncollectible amount in rates. In the event the Commission requires such a change, it shall be made effective at the beginning of the first full calendar year after the new rates approved in such proceeding are first placed in effect and an adjustment shall be made, if necessary, to ensure the change does not result in double-recovery or unrecovered uncollectible amounts for any year. For purposes of this Section, "uncollectible amount" means the expense set forth in Account 904 of the utility's FERC Form 1 or cost of net write-offs as appropriate. In the event the utility's rates



change during the period of time reported in its most recent annual FERC Form 1, the uncollectible amount included in the utility's rates during such period of time for purposes of this Section will be a weighted average, based on revenues earned during such period by the utility under each set of rates, of the uncollectible amount included in the utility's rates at the beginning of such period and at the end of such period. This difference may either be a charge or a credit to customers depending on whether the uncollectible amount is more or less than the uncollectible amount then included in the utility's rates.

(b) The tariff may be established outside the context of a general rate case filing and shall specify the terms of any applicable audit. The Commission shall review and by order approve, or approve as modified, the proposed tariff within 180 days after the date on which it is filed. Charges and credits under the tariff shall be allocated to the appropriate customer class or classes. In addition, customers who purchase their electric supply from an alternative retail electric supplier shall not be charged by the utility for uncollectible amounts associated with electric supply provided by the utility to the utility's customers, provided that nothing in this Section is intended to affect or alter the rights and obligations imposed pursuant to Section 16-118 of this Act and any Commission order issued thereunder. Upon approval of the tariff, the utility shall, based on the 2008 FERC Form 1, apply the appropriate

credit or charge based on the full year 2008 amounts for the remainder of the 2010 calendar year. Starting with the 2009 FERC Form 1 reporting period and each subsequent period, the utility shall apply the appropriate credit or charge over a 12-month period beginning with the June billing period and ending with the May billing period, with the first such billing period beginning June 2010.

(c) The approved tariff shall provide that the utility shall file a petition with the Commission annually, no later than August 31st, seeking initiation of an annual review to reconcile all amounts collected with the actual uncollectible amount in the prior period. As part of its review, the Commission shall verify that the utility collects no more and no less than its actual uncollectible amount in each applicable FERC Form 1 reporting period. The Commission shall review the prudence and reasonableness of the utility's actions to pursue minimization and collection of uncollectibles which shall include, at a minimum, the 6 enumerated criteria set forth in this Section. The Commission shall determine any required adjustments and may include suggestions for prospective changes in current practices. Nothing in this Section or the implementing tariffs shall affect or alter the electric utility's existing obligation to pursue collection of uncollectibles or the electric utility's right to disconnect service. A utility that has in effect a tariff authorized by this Section shall pursue minimization of and collection of

uncollectibles through the following activities, including, but not limited to:

(1) identifying customers with late payments;

(2) contacting the customers in an effort to obtain payment;

(3) providing delinquent customers with information about possible options, including payment plans and assistance programs;

(4) serving disconnection notices;

(5) implementing disconnections based on the level of uncollectibles; and

(6) pursuing collection activities based on the level of uncollectibles.

(d) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require a utility to immediately disconnect service for nonpayment.

(220 ILCS 5/16-115D new)

Sec. 16-115D. Renewable portfolio standard for alternative retail electric suppliers and electric utilities operating outside their service territories.

(a) An alternative retail electric supplier shall be responsible for procuring cost-effective renewable energy resources as required under item (5) of subsection (d) of Section 16-115 of this Act as outlined herein:

(1) The definition of renewable energy resources contained in Section 1-10 of the Illinois Power Agency Act

applies to all renewable energy resources required to be procured by alternative retail electric suppliers.

(2) The quantity of renewable energy resources shall be measured as a percentage of the actual amount of metered electricity (megawatt-hours) delivered by the alternative retail electric supplier to Illinois retail customers during the 12-month period June 1 through May 31, commencing June 1, 2009, and the comparable 12-month period in each year thereafter except as provided in item (6) of this subsection (a).

(3) The quantity of renewable energy resources shall be in amounts at least equal to the annual percentages set forth in item (1) of subsection (c) of Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power Agency Act. At least 60% of the renewable energy resources procured pursuant to items (1) through (3) of subsection (b) of this Section shall come from wind generation and, starting June 1, 2015, at least 6% of the renewable energy resources procured pursuant to items (1) through (3) of subsection (b) of this Section shall come from solar photovoltaics. If, in any given year, an alternative retail electric supplier does not purchase at least these levels of renewable energy resources, then the alternative retail electric supplier shall make alternative compliance payments, as described in subsection (d) of this Section.

(4) The quantity and source of renewable energy

resources shall be independently verified through the PJM Environmental Information System Generation Attribute Tracking System (PJM-GATS) or the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS), which shall document the location of generation, resource type, month, and year of generation for all qualifying renewable energy resources that an alternative retail electric supplier uses to comply with this Section. No later than June 1, 2009, the Illinois Power Agency shall provide PJM-GATS, M-RETS, and alternative retail electric suppliers with all information necessary to identify resources located in Illinois, within states that adjoin Illinois or within portions of the PJM and MISO footprint in the United States that qualify under the definition of renewable energy resources in Section 1-10 of the Illinois Power Agency Act for compliance with this Section 16-115D. Alternative retail electric suppliers shall not be subject to the requirements in item (3) of subsection (c) of Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power Agency Act.

(5) All renewable energy credits used to comply with this Section shall be permanently retired.

(6) The required procurement of renewable energy resources by an alternative retail electric supplier shall apply to all metered electricity delivered to Illinois retail customers by the alternative retail electric supplier pursuant to contracts executed or extended after

March 15, 2009.

(b) An alternative retail electric supplier shall comply with the renewable energy portfolio standards by making an alternative compliance payment, as described in subsection (d) of this Section, to cover at least one-half of the alternative retail electric supplier's compliance obligation and any one or combination of the following means to cover the remainder of the alternative retail electric supplier's compliance obligation:

(1) Generating electricity using renewable energy resources identified pursuant to item (4) of subsection (a) of this Section.

(2) Purchasing electricity generated using renewable energy resources identified pursuant to item (4) of subsection (a) of this Section through an energy contract.

(3) Purchasing renewable energy credits from renewable energy resources identified pursuant to item (4) of subsection (a) of this Section.

(4) Making an alternative compliance payment as described in subsection (d) of this Section.

(c) Use of renewable energy credits.

(1) Renewable energy credits that are not used by an alternative retail electric supplier to comply with a renewable portfolio standard in a compliance year may be banked and carried forward up to 2 12-month compliance periods after the compliance period in which the credit was

generated for the purpose of complying with a renewable portfolio standard in those 2 subsequent compliance periods. For the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 compliance periods, an alternative retail electric supplier may use renewable credits generated after December 31, 2008 and before June 1, 2009 to comply with this Section.

(2) An alternative retail electric supplier is responsible for demonstrating that a renewable energy credit used to comply with a renewable portfolio standard is derived from a renewable energy resource and that the alternative retail electric supplier has not used, traded, sold, or otherwise transferred the credit.

(3) The same renewable energy credit may be used by an alternative retail electric supplier to comply with a federal renewable portfolio standard and a renewable portfolio standard established under this Act. An alternative retail electric supplier that uses a renewable energy credit to comply with a renewable portfolio standard imposed by any other state may not use the same credit to comply with a renewable portfolio standard established under this Act.

(d) Alternative compliance payments.

(1) The Commission shall establish and post on its website, within 5 business days after entering an order approving a procurement plan pursuant to Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power Agency Act, maximum alternative

compliance payment rates, expressed on a per kilowatt-hour basis, that will be applicable in the first compliance period following the plan approval. A separate maximum alternative compliance payment rate shall be established for the service territory of each electric utility that is subject to subsection (c) of Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power Agency Act. Each maximum alternative compliance payment rate shall be equal to the maximum allowable annual estimated average net increase due to the costs of the utility's purchase of renewable energy resources included in the amounts paid by eligible retail customers in connection with electric service, as described in item (2) of subsection (c) of Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power Agency Act for the compliance period, and as established in the approved procurement plan. Following each procurement event through which renewable energy resources are purchased for one or more of these utilities for the compliance period, the Commission shall establish and post on its website estimates of the alternative compliance payment rates, expressed on a per kilowatt-hour basis, that shall apply for that compliance period. Posting of the estimates shall occur no later than 10 business days following the procurement event, however, the Commission shall not be required to establish and post such estimates more often than once per calendar month. By July 1 of each year, the Commission shall establish and post on its



website the actual alternative compliance payment rates for the preceding compliance year. Each alternative compliance payment rate shall be equal to the total amount of dollars for which the utility contracted to spend on renewable resources for the compliance period divided by the forecasted load of eligible retail customers, at the customers' meters, as previously established in the Commission-approved procurement plan for that compliance year. The actual alternative compliance payment rates may not exceed the maximum alternative compliance payment rates established for the compliance period. For purposes of this subsection (d), the term "eligible retail customers" has the same meaning as found in Section 16-111.5 of this Act.

(2) In any given compliance year, an alternative retail electric supplier may elect to use alternative compliance payments to comply with all or a part of the applicable renewable portfolio standard. In the event that an alternative retail electric supplier elects to make alternative compliance payments to comply with all or a part of the applicable renewable portfolio standard, such payments shall be made by September 1, 2010 for the period of June 1, 2009 to May 1, 2010 and by September 1 of each year thereafter for the subsequent compliance period, in the manner and form as determined by the Commission. Any election by an alternative retail electric supplier to use

alternative compliance payments is subject to review by the Commission under subsection (e) of this Section.

(3) An alternative retail electric supplier's alternative compliance payments shall be computed separately for each electric utility's service territory within which the alternative retail electric supplier provided retail service during the compliance period, provided that the electric utility was subject to subsection (c) of Section 1-75 of the Illinois Power Agency Act. For each service territory, the alternative retail electric supplier's alternative compliance payment shall be equal to (i) the actual alternative compliance payment rate established in item (1) of this subsection (d), multiplied by (ii) the actual amount of metered electricity delivered by the alternative retail electric supplier to retail customers within the service territory during the compliance period, multiplied by (iii) the result of one minus the ratios of the quantity of renewable energy resources used by the alternative retail electric supplier to comply with the requirements of this Section within the service territory to the product of the percentage of renewable energy resources required under item (3) of subsection (a) of this Section and the actual amount of metered electricity delivered by the alternative retail electric supplier to retail customers within the service territory during the compliance period.

(4) All alternative compliance payments by alternative retail electric suppliers shall be deposited in the Illinois Power Agency Renewable Energy Resources Fund and used to purchase renewable energy credits, in accordance with Section 1-56 of the Illinois Power Agency Act.

(5) The Commission, in consultation with the Illinois Power Agency, shall establish a process or proceeding to consider the impact of a federal renewable portfolio standard, if enacted, on the operation of the alternative compliance mechanism, which shall include, but not be limited to, developing, to the extent permitted by the applicable federal statute, an appropriate methodology to apportion renewable energy credits retired as a result of alternative compliance payments made in accordance with this Section. The Commission shall commence any such process or proceeding within 35 days after enactment of a federal renewable portfolio standard.

(e) Each alternative retail electric supplier shall, by September 1, 2010 and by September 1 of each year thereafter, prepare and submit to the Commission a report, in a format to be specified by the Commission on or before December 31, 2009, that provides information certifying compliance by the alternative retail electric supplier with this Section, including copies of all PJM-GATS and M-RETS reports, and documentation relating to banking, retiring renewable energy credits, and any other information that the Commission

determines necessary to ensure compliance with this Section. An alternative retail electric supplier may file commercially or financially sensitive information or trade secrets with the Commission as provided under the rules of the Commission. To be filed confidentially, the information shall be accompanied by an affidavit that sets forth both the reasons for the confidentiality and a public synopsis of the information.

(f) The Commission may initiate a contested case to review allegations that the alternative retail electric supplier has violated this Section, including an order issued or rule promulgated under this Section. In any such proceeding, the alternative retail electric supplier shall have the burden of proof. If the Commission finds, after notice and hearing, that an alternative retail electric supplier has violated this Section, then the Commission shall issue an order requiring the alternative retail electric supplier to:

- (1) immediately comply with this Section; and
- (2) if the violation involves a failure to procure the requisite quantity of renewable energy resources or pay the applicable alternative compliance payment by the annual deadline, the Commission shall require the alternative retail electric supplier to double the applicable alternative compliance payment that would otherwise be required to bring the alternative retail electric supplier into compliance with this Section.

If an alternative retail electric supplier fails to comply

with the renewable energy resource portfolio requirement in this Section more than once in a 5-year period, then the Commission shall revoke the alternative electric supplier's certificate of service authority. The Commission shall not accept an application for a certificate of service authority from an alternative retail electric supplier that has lost certification under this subsection (f), or any corporate affiliate thereof, for at least one year after the date of revocation.

(g) All of the provisions of this Section apply to electric utilities operating outside their service area except under item (2) of subsection (a) of this Section the quantity of renewable energy resources shall be measured as a percentage of the actual amount of electricity (megawatt-hours) supplied in the State outside of the utility's service territory during the 12-month period June 1 through May 31, commencing June 1, 2009, and the comparable 12-month period in each year thereafter except as provided in item (6) of subsection (a) of this Section.

If any such utility fails to procure the requisite quantity of renewable energy resources by the annual deadline, then the Commission shall require the utility to double the alternative compliance payment that would otherwise be required to bring the utility into compliance with this Section.

If any such utility fails to comply with the renewable energy resource portfolio requirement in this Section more than

once in a 5-year period, then the Commission shall order the utility to cease all sales outside of the utility's service territory for a period of at least one year.

(h) The provisions of this Section and the provisions of subsection (d) of Section 16-115 of this Act relating to procurement of renewable energy resources shall not apply to an alternative retail electric supplier that operates a combined heat and power system in this State or that has a corporate affiliate that operates such a combined heat and power system in this State that supplies electricity primarily to or for the benefit of: (i) facilities owned by the supplier, its subsidiary, or other corporate affiliate; (ii) facilities electrically integrated with the electrical system of facilities owned by the supplier, its subsidiary, or other corporate affiliate; or (iii) facilities that are adjacent to the site on which the combined heat and power system is located.

(220 ILCS 5/19-140 new)

Sec. 19-140. On-bill financing program; gas utilities.

(a) The Illinois General Assembly finds that Illinois homes and businesses have the potential to save energy through conservation and cost-effective energy efficiency measures. Programs created pursuant to this Section will allow utility customers to purchase cost-effective energy efficiency measures with no required initial upfront payment, and to pay

the cost of those products and services over time on their utility bill.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a gas utility serving more than 100,000 customers on January 1, 2009 shall offer a Commission-approved on-bill financing program ("program") that allows its retail customers who own a residential single family home, duplex, or other residential building with 4 or less units, or condominium at which the gas service is being provided (i) to borrow funds from a third party lender in order to purchase gas energy efficiency measures approved under the program for installation in such home or condominium without any required upfront payment and (ii) to pay back such funds over time through the gas utility's bill. Based upon the process described in subsection (b-5) of this Section, small commercial retail customers, as that term is defined in Section 19-105 of this Act, who own the premises at which gas service is being provided may be included in such program. After receiving a request from a gas utility for approval of a proposed program and tariffs pursuant to this Section, the Commission shall render its decision within 120 days. If no decision is rendered within 120 days, then the request shall be deemed to be approved.

(b-5) Within 30 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly, the Commission shall convene a workshop process during which interested participants may discuss issues related to the program,

including program design, eligible gas energy efficiency measures, vendor qualifications, and a methodology for ensuring ongoing compliance with such qualifications, financing, sample documents such as request for proposals, contracts and agreements, dispute resolution, pre-installment and post-installment verification, and evaluation. The workshop process shall be completed within 150 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly.

(c) Not later than 60 days following completion of the workshop process described in subsection (b-5) of this Section, each gas utility subject to subsection (b) of this Section shall submit a proposed program to the Commission that contains the following components:

(1) A list of recommended gas energy efficiency measures that will be eligible for on-bill financing. An eligible gas energy efficiency measure ("measure") shall be defined by the following:

(A) The measure would be applied to or replace gas energy-using equipment; and

(B) Application of the measure to equipment and systems will have estimated gas savings (determined by rates in effect at the time of purchase), that are sufficient to cover the costs of implementing the measures, including finance charges and any program fees not recovered pursuant to subsection (f) of this



Section. To assist the gas utility in identifying or approving measures, the utility may consult with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, as well as with retailers, technicians and installers of gas energy efficiency measures and energy auditors (collectively "vendors").

(2) The gas utility shall issue a request for proposals ("RFP") to lenders for purposes of providing financing to participants to pay for approved measures. The RFP criteria shall include, but not be limited to, the interest rate, origination fees, and credit terms. The utility shall select the winning bidders based on its evaluation of these criteria, with a preference for those bids containing the rates, fees, and terms most favorable to participants.

(3) The utility shall work with the lenders selected pursuant to the RFP process, and with vendors, to establish the terms and processes pursuant to which a participant can purchase eligible gas energy efficiency measures using the financing obtained from the lender. The vendor shall explain and offer the approved financing packaging to those customers identified in subsection (b) of this Section and shall assist customers in applying for financing. As part of such process, vendors shall also provide to participants information about any other incentives that may be available for the measures.

(4) The lender shall conduct credit checks or undertake

other appropriate measures to limit credit risk, and shall review and approve or deny financing applications submitted by customers identified in subsection (b) of this Section. Following the lender's approval of financing and the participant's purchase of the measure or measures, the lender shall forward payment information to the gas utility, and the utility shall add as a separate line item on the participant's utility bill a charge showing the amount due under the program each month.

(5) A loan issued to a participant pursuant to the program shall be the sole responsibility of the participant, and any dispute that may arise concerning the loan's terms, conditions, or charges shall be resolved between the participant and lender. Upon transfer of the property title for the premises at which the participant receives gas service from the utility or the participant's request to terminate service at such premises, the participant shall pay in full its gas utility bill, including all amounts due under the program, provided that this obligation may be modified as provided in subsection (g) of this Section. Amounts due under the program shall be deemed amounts owed for residential and, as appropriate, small commercial gas service.

(6) The gas utility shall remit payment in full to the lender each month on behalf of the participant. In the event a participant defaults on payment of its gas utility

bill, the gas utility shall continue to remit all payments due under the program to the lender, and the utility shall be entitled to recover all costs related to a participant's nonpayment through the automatic adjustment clause tariff established pursuant to Section 19-145 of this Act. In addition, the gas utility shall retain a security interest in the measure or measures purchased under the program, and the utility retains its right to disconnect a participant that defaults on the payment of its utility bill.

(7) The total outstanding amount financed under the program shall not exceed \$2.5 million for a gas utility or gas utilities under a single holding company, provided that the gas utility or gas utilities may petition the Commission for an increase in such amount.

(d) A program approved by the Commission shall also include the following criteria and guidelines for such program:

(1) guidelines for financing of measures installed under a program, including, but not limited to, RFP criteria and limits on both individual loan amounts and the duration of the loans;

(2) criteria and standards for identifying and approving measures;

(3) qualifications of vendors that will market or install measures, as well as a methodology for ensuring ongoing compliance with such qualifications;

(4) sample contracts and agreements necessary to

implement the measures and program; and

(5) the types of data and information that utilities and vendors participating in the program shall collect for purposes of preparing the reports required under subsection (g) of this Section.

(e) The proposed program submitted by each gas utility shall be consistent with the provisions of this Section that define operational, financial, and billing arrangements between and among program participants, vendors, lenders, and the gas utility.

(f) A gas utility shall recover all of the prudently incurred costs of offering a program approved by the Commission pursuant to this Section, including, but not limited to, all start-up and administrative costs and the costs for program evaluation. All prudently incurred costs under this Section shall be recovered from the residential and small commercial retail customer classes eligible to participate in the program through the automatic adjustment clause tariff established pursuant to Section 8-104 of this Act.

(g) An independent evaluation of a program shall be conducted after 3 years of the program's operation. The gas utility shall retain an independent evaluator who shall evaluate the effects of the measures installed under the program and the overall operation of the program, including, but not limited to, customer eligibility criteria and whether the payment obligation for permanent gas energy efficiency

measures that will continue to provide benefits of energy savings should attach to the meter location. As part of the evaluation process, the evaluator shall also solicit feedback from participants and interested stakeholders. The evaluator shall issue a report to the Commission on its findings no later than 4 years after the date on which the program commenced, and the Commission shall issue a report to the Governor and General Assembly including a summary of the information described in this Section as well as its recommendations as to whether the program should be discontinued, continued with modification or modifications or continued without modification, provided that any recommended modifications shall only apply prospectively and to measures not yet installed or financed.

(h) A gas utility offering a Commission-approved program pursuant to this Section shall not be required to comply with any other statute, order, rule, or regulation of this State that may relate to the offering of such program, provided that nothing in this Section is intended to limit the gas utility's obligation to comply with this Act and the Commission's orders, rules, and regulations, including Part 280 of Title 83 of the Illinois Administrative Code.

(i) The source of a utility customer's gas supply shall not disqualify a customer from participation in the utility's on-bill financing program. Customers of alternative gas suppliers may participate in the program under the same terms and conditions applicable to the utility's supply customers.

(220 ILCS 5/19-145 new)

Sec. 19-145. Automatic adjustment clause tariff; uncollectibles.

(a) A gas utility shall be permitted, at its election, to recover through an automatic adjustment clause tariff the incremental difference between its actual uncollectible amount as set forth in Account 904 in the utility's most recent annual Form 21 ILCC and the uncollectible amount included in the utility's rates for the period reported in such annual Form 21 ILCC. The Commission may, in a proceeding to review a general rate case filed subsequent to the effective date of the tariff established under this Section, prospectively switch, from using the actual uncollectible amount set forth in Account 904 to using net write-offs in such tariff, but only if net write-offs are also used to determine the utility's uncollectible amount in rates. In the event the Commission requires such a change, it shall be made effective at the beginning of the first full calendar year after the new rates approved in such proceeding are first placed in effect and an adjustment shall be made, if necessary, to ensure the change does not result in double-recovery or unrecovered uncollectible amounts for any year. For purposes of this Section, "uncollectible amount" means the expense set forth in Account 904 of the utility's Form 21 ILCC or cost of net write-offs as appropriate. In the event the utility's rates

change during the period of time reported in its most recent annual Form 21 ILCC, the uncollectible amount included in the utility's rates during such period of time for purposes of this Section will be a weighted average, based on revenues earned during such period by the utility under each set of rates, of the uncollectible amount included in the utility's rates at the beginning of such period and at the end of such period. This difference may either be a charge or a credit to customers depending on whether the uncollectible amount is more or less than the uncollectible amount then included in the utility's rates.

(b) The tariff may be established outside the context of a general rate case filing, and shall specify the terms of any applicable audit. The Commission shall review and by order approve, or approve as modified, the proposed tariff within 180 days after the date on which it is filed. Charges and credits under the tariff shall be allocated to the appropriate customer class or classes. In addition, customers who do not purchase their gas supply from a gas utility shall not be charged by the utility for uncollectible amounts associated with gas supply provided by the utility to the utility's customers. Upon approval of the tariff, the utility shall, based on the 2008 Form 21 ILCC, apply the appropriate credit or charge based on the full year 2008 amounts for the remainder of the 2010 calendar year. Starting with the 2009 Form 21 ILCC reporting period and each subsequent period, the utility shall apply the

appropriate credit or charge over a 12-month period beginning with the June billing period and ending with the May billing period, with the first such billing period beginning June 2010.

(c) The approved tariff shall provide that the utility shall file a petition with the Commission annually, no later than August 31st, seeking initiation of an annual review to reconcile all amounts collected with the actual uncollectible amount in the prior period. As part of its review, the Commission shall verify that the utility collects no more and no less than its actual uncollectible amount in each applicable Form 21 ILCC reporting period. The Commission shall review the prudence and reasonableness of the utility's actions to pursue minimization and collection of uncollectibles which shall include, at a minimum, the 6 enumerated criteria set forth in this Section. The Commission shall determine any required adjustments and may include suggestions for prospective changes in current practices. Nothing in this Section or the implementing tariffs shall affect or alter the gas utility's existing obligation to pursue collection of uncollectibles or the gas utility's right to disconnect service. A utility that has in effect a tariff authorized by this Section shall pursue minimization of and collection of uncollectibles through the following activities, including but not limited to:

(1) identifying customers with late payments;

(2) contacting the customers in an effort to obtain payment;



(3) providing delinquent customers with information about possible options, including payment plans and assistance programs;

(4) serving disconnection notices;

(5) implementing disconnections based on the level of uncollectibles; and

(6) pursuing collection activities based on the level of uncollectibles.

(d) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require a utility to immediately disconnect service for nonpayment.

Section 15. The Energy Assistance Act is amended by changing Sections 2, 3, and 13 and by adding Section 18 as follows:

(305 ILCS 20/2) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 1402)

Sec. 2. Findings and Intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) the health, welfare, and prosperity of the people of the State of Illinois require that all citizens receive essential levels of heat and electric service regardless of economic circumstance;

(2) public utilities and other entities providing such services are entitled to receive proper payment for services actually rendered;

(3) variability of declining Federal low income energy

assistance funding necessitates a State response to ensure the continuity and the further development of energy assistance and related policies and programs within Illinois; ~~and~~

(4) energy assistance policies and programs in effect in Illinois have benefited all Illinois citizens, and should therefore be continued with the modifications provided herein; and -

(5) low-income households are unable to afford essential utility services and other necessities, such as food, shelter, and medical care; the health and safety of those who are unable to afford essential utility services suffer when monthly payments for these services exceed a reasonable percentage of the customer's household income; costs of collecting past due bills and uncollectible balances are reflected in rates paid by all ratepayers; society benefits if essential utility services are affordable and arrearages and disconnections are minimized for those most in need.

(b) Consistent with its findings, the General Assembly declares that it is the policy of the State that:

(1) a comprehensive low income energy assistance policy and program should be established which incorporates income assistance, home weatherization, and other measures to ensure that citizens have access to affordable energy services;

(2) the ability of public utilities and other entities to receive just compensation for providing services should not be jeopardized by this policy;

(3) resources applied in achieving this policy should be coordinated and efficiently utilized through the integration of public programs and through the targeting of assistance; and

(4) the State should utilize all appropriate and available means to fund this program and, to the extent possible, should identify and utilize sources of funding which complement State tax revenues.

(Source: P.A. 94-773, eff. 5-18-06.)

(305 ILCS 20/3) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 1403)

Sec. 3. Definitions. As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) the terms defined in Sections 3-101 through 3-121 of The Public Utilities Act have the meanings ascribed to them in that Act;

(b) "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity ~~Healthcare and Family Services~~;

(c) "energy provider" means any utility, municipal utility, cooperative utility, or any other corporation or individual which provides winter energy services;

(d) "winter" means the period from November 1 of any year through April 30 of the following year.

(Source: P.A. 94-773, eff. 5-18-06; 94-793, eff. 5-19-06; 95-331, eff. 8-21-07.)

(305 ILCS 20/13)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on December 31, 2013)

Sec. 13. Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund.

(a) The Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund is hereby created as a special fund in the State Treasury. The Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund is authorized to receive moneys from voluntary donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and other sources, moneys received pursuant to Section 17, and, by statutory deposit, the moneys collected pursuant to this Section. The Fund is also authorized to receive voluntary donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and other sources, as well as contributions made in accordance with Section 507MM of the Illinois Income Tax Act. Subject to appropriation, the Department shall use moneys from the Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund for payments to electric or gas public utilities, municipal electric or gas utilities, and electric cooperatives on behalf of their customers who are participants in the program authorized by Sections 4 and 18 ~~Section 4~~ of this Act, for the provision of weatherization services and for administration of the Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund. The yearly expenditures for weatherization may not exceed 10% of the amount collected during the year pursuant to this Section. The

yearly administrative expenses of the Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund may not exceed 10% of the amount collected during that year pursuant to this Section.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 16-111 of the Public Utilities Act but subject to subsection (k) of this Section, each public utility, electric cooperative, as defined in Section 3.4 of the Electric Supplier Act, and municipal utility, as referenced in Section 3-105 of the Public Utilities Act, that is engaged in the delivery of electricity or the distribution of natural gas within the State of Illinois shall, effective January 1, 1998, assess each of its customer accounts a monthly Energy Assistance Charge for the Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund. The delivering public utility, municipal electric or gas utility, or electric or gas cooperative for a self-assessing purchaser remains subject to the collection of the fee imposed by this Section. The monthly charge shall be as follows:

(1) \$0.48 ~~\$0.40~~ per month on each account for residential electric service;

(2) \$0.48 ~~\$0.40~~ per month on each account for residential gas service;

(3) \$4.80 ~~\$4~~ per month on each account for non-residential electric service which had less than 10 megawatts of peak demand during the previous calendar year;

(4) \$4.80 ~~\$4~~ per month on each account for non-residential gas service which had distributed to it

less than 4,000,000 therms of gas during the previous calendar year;

(5) \$360 ~~\$300~~ per month on each account for non-residential electric service which had 10 megawatts or greater of peak demand during the previous calendar year; and

(6) \$360 ~~\$300~~ per month on each account for non-residential gas service which had 4,000,000 or more therms of gas distributed to it during the previous calendar year.

The incremental change to such charges imposed by this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly shall not (i) be used for any purpose other than to directly assist customers and (ii) be applicable to utilities serving less than 100,000 customers in Illinois on January 1, 2009.

In addition, electric and gas utilities have committed, and shall contribute, a one-time payment of \$22 million to the Fund, within 10 days after the effective date of the tariffs established pursuant to Sections 16-111.8 and 19-145 of the Public Utilities Act to be used for the Department's cost of implementing the programs described in Section 18 of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly, the Arrearage Reduction Program described in Section 18, and the programs described in Section 8-105 of the Public Utilities Act. If a utility elects not to file a rider within 90 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General

Assembly, then the contribution from such utility shall be made no later than February 1, 2010.

(c) For purposes of this Section:

(1) "residential electric service" means electric utility service for household purposes delivered to a dwelling of 2 or fewer units which is billed under a residential rate, or electric utility service for household purposes delivered to a dwelling unit or units which is billed under a residential rate and is registered by a separate meter for each dwelling unit;

(2) "residential gas service" means gas utility service for household purposes distributed to a dwelling of 2 or fewer units which is billed under a residential rate, or gas utility service for household purposes distributed to a dwelling unit or units which is billed under a residential rate and is registered by a separate meter for each dwelling unit;

(3) "non-residential electric service" means electric utility service which is not residential electric service; and

(4) "non-residential gas service" means gas utility service which is not residential gas service.

(d) Within 30 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly ~~At least 45 days prior to the date on which it must begin assessing Energy Assistance Charges,~~ each public utility engaged in the delivery

of electricity or the distribution of natural gas shall file with the Illinois Commerce Commission tariffs incorporating the Energy Assistance Charge in other charges stated in such tariffs, which shall become effective no later than the beginning of the first billing cycle following such filing.

(e) The Energy Assistance Charge assessed by electric and gas public utilities shall be considered a charge for public utility service.

(f) By the 20th day of the month following the month in which the charges imposed by the Section were collected, each public utility, municipal utility, and electric cooperative shall remit to the Department of Revenue all moneys received as payment of the Energy Assistance Charge on a return prescribed and furnished by the Department of Revenue showing such information as the Department of Revenue may reasonably require; provided, however, that a utility offering an Arrearage Reduction Program pursuant to Section 18 of this Act shall be entitled to net those amounts necessary to fund and recover the costs of such Program as authorized by that Section that is no more than the incremental change in such Energy Assistance Charge authorized by this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly. If a customer makes a partial payment, a public utility, municipal utility, or electric cooperative may elect either: (i) to apply such partial payments first to amounts owed to the utility or cooperative for its services and then to payment for the Energy Assistance Charge or (ii) to



apply such partial payments on a pro-rata basis between amounts owed to the utility or cooperative for its services and to payment for the Energy Assistance Charge.

(g) The Department of Revenue shall deposit into the Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund all moneys remitted to it in accordance with subsection (f) of this Section; provided, however, that the amounts remitted by each utility shall be used to provide assistance to that utility's customers. The utilities shall coordinate with the Department to establish an equitable and practical methodology for implementing this subsection (g) beginning with the 2010 program year.

(h) (Blank).

On or before December 31, 2002, the Department shall prepare a report for the General Assembly on the expenditure of funds appropriated from the Low-Income Energy Assistance Block Grant Fund for the program authorized under Section 4 of this Act.

(i) The Department of Revenue may establish such rules as it deems necessary to implement this Section.

(j) The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity ~~Healthcare and Family Services~~ may establish such rules as it deems necessary to implement this Section.

(k) The charges imposed by this Section shall only apply to customers of municipal electric or gas utilities and electric or gas cooperatives if the municipal electric or gas utility or

electric or gas cooperative makes an affirmative decision to impose the charge. If a municipal electric or gas utility or an electric cooperative makes an affirmative decision to impose the charge provided by this Section, the municipal electric or gas utility or electric cooperative shall inform the Department of Revenue in writing of such decision when it begins to impose the charge. If a municipal electric or gas utility or electric or gas cooperative does not assess this charge, the Department may not use funds from the Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund to provide benefits to its customers under the program authorized by Section 4 of this Act.

In its use of federal funds under this Act, the Department may not cause a disproportionate share of those federal funds to benefit customers of systems which do not assess the charge provided by this Section.

This Section is repealed effective December 31, 2013 unless renewed by action of the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall consider the results of the evaluations described in Section 8 in its deliberations.

(Source: P.A. 94-773, eff. 5-18-06; 94-793, eff. 5-19-06; 94-817, eff. 5-30-06; 95-48, eff. 8-10-07; 95-331, eff. 8-21-07.)

(305 ILCS 20/18 new)

Sec. 18. Financial assistance; payment plans.

(a) The Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP or PIP

Plan) is hereby created as a mandatory bill payment assistance program for low-income residential customers of utilities serving more than 100,000 retail customers as of January 1, 2009. The PIP Plan will:

(1) bring participants' gas and electric bills into the range of affordability;

(2) provide incentives for participants to make timely payments;

(3) encourage participants to reduce usage and participate in conservation and energy efficiency measures that reduce the customer's bill and payment requirements; and

(4) identify participants whose homes are most in need of weatherization.

(b) For purposes of this Section:

(1) "LIHEAP" means the energy assistance program established under the Illinois Energy Assistance Act and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981.

(2) "Plan participant" is an eligible participant who is also eligible for the PIPP and who will receive either a percentage of income payment credit under the PIPP criteria set forth in this Act or a benefit pursuant to Section 4 of this Act. Plan participants are a subset of eligible participants.

(3) "Pre-program arrears" means the amount a plan participant owes for gas or electric service at the time

the participant is determined to be eligible for the PIPP or the program set forth in Section 4 of this Act.

(4) "Eligible participant" means any person who has applied for, been accepted and is receiving residential service from a gas or electric utility and who is also eligible for LIHEAP.

(c) The PIP Plan shall be administered as follows:

(1) The Department shall coordinate with Local Administrative Agencies (LAAs), to determine eligibility for the Illinois Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) pursuant to the Energy Assistance Act, provided that eligible income shall be no more than 150% of the poverty level. Applicants will be screened to determine whether the applicant's projected payments for electric service or natural gas service over a 12-month period exceed the criteria established in this Section. To maintain the financial integrity of the program, the Department may limit eligibility to households with income below 125% of the poverty level.

(2) The Department shall establish the percentage of income formula to determine the amount of a monthly credit, not to exceed \$150 per month per household, not to exceed \$1,800 annually, that will be applied to PIP Plan participants' utility bills based on the portion of the bill that is the responsibility of the participant provided that the percentage shall be no more than a total of 6% of

the relevant income for gas and electric utility bills combined, but in any event no less than \$10 per month, unless the household does not pay directly for heat, in which case its payment shall be 2.4% of income but in any event no less than \$5 per month. The Department may establish a minimum credit amount based on the cost of administering the program and may deny credits to otherwise eligible participants if the cost of administering the credit exceeds the actual amount of any monthly credit to a participant. If the participant takes both gas and electric service, 66.67% of the credit shall be allocated to the entity that provides the participant's primary energy supply for heating. Each participant shall enter into a levelized payment plan for, as applicable, gas and electric service and such plans shall be implemented by the utility so that a participant's usage and required payments are reviewed and adjusted regularly, but no more frequently than quarterly. Nothing in this Section is intended to prohibit a customer, who is otherwise eligible for LIHEAP, from participating in the program described in Section 4 of this Act. Eligible participants who receive such a benefit shall be considered plan participants and shall be eligible to participate in the Arrearage Reduction Program described in item (5) of this subsection (c).

(3) The Department shall remit, through the LAAs, to the utility or participating alternative supplier that

portion of the plan participant's bill that is not the responsibility of the participant. In the event that the Department fails to timely remit payment to the utility, the utility shall be entitled to recover all costs related to such nonpayment through the automatic adjustment clause tariffs established pursuant to Section 16-111.8 and Section 19-145 of the Public Utilities Act. For purposes of this item (3) of this subsection (c), payment is due on the date specified on the participant's bill. The Department, the Department of Revenue and LAAs shall adopt processes that provide for the timely payment required by this item (3) of this subsection (c).

(4) A plan participant is responsible for all actual charges for utility service in excess of the PIPP credit. Pre-program arrears that are included in the Arrearage Reduction Program described in item (5) of this subsection (c) shall not be included in the calculation of the levelized payment plan. Emergency or crisis assistance payments shall not affect the amount of any PIPP credit to which a participant is entitled.

(5) Electric and gas utilities subject to this Section shall implement an Arrearage Reduction Program (ARP) for plan participants as follows: for each month that a plan participant timely pays his or her utility bill, the utility shall apply a credit to a portion of the participant's pre-program arrears, if any, equal to

one-twelfth of such arrearage provided that the total amount of arrearage credits shall equal no more than \$1,000 annually for each participant for gas and no more than \$1,000 annually for each participant for electricity. In the third year of the PIPP, the Department, in consultation with the Policy Advisory Council established pursuant to Section 5 of this Act, shall determine by rule an appropriate per participant total cap on such amounts, if any. Those plan participants participating in the ARP shall not be subject to the imposition of any additional late payment fees on pre-program arrears covered by the ARP. In all other respects, the utility shall bill and collect the monthly bill of a plan participant pursuant to the same rules, regulations, programs and policies as applicable to residential customers generally. Participation in the Arrearage Reduction Program shall be limited to the maximum amount of funds available as set forth in subsection (f) of Section 13 of this Act. In the event any donated funds under Section 13 of this Act are specifically designated for the purpose of funding the ARP, the Department shall remit such amounts to the utilities upon verification that such funds are needed to fund the ARP.

(6) The Department may terminate a plan participant's eligibility for the PIP Plan upon notification by the utility that the participant's monthly utility payment is more than 45 days past due.

(7) The Department, in consultation with the Policy Advisory Council, may adjust the number of PIP Plan participants annually, if necessary, to match the availability of funds from LIHEAP.

(8) The Department shall fully implement the PIPP at the earliest possible date it is able to effectively administer the PIPP. Within 90 days of the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly, the Department shall, in consultation with utility companies, participating alternative suppliers, LAAs and the Illinois Commerce Commission (Commission), issue a detailed implementation plan which shall include detailed testing protocols and analysis of the capacity for implementation by the LAAs and utilities. Such consultation process also shall address how to implement the PIPP in the most cost-effective and timely manner, and shall identify opportunities for relying on the expertise of utilities, LAAs and the Commission. Following the implementation of the testing protocols, the Department shall issue a written report on the feasibility of full or gradual implementation. The PIPP shall be fully implemented by September 1, 2011, but may be phased in prior to that date.

(9) As part of the screening process established under item (1) of this subsection (c), the Department and LAAs shall assess whether any energy efficiency or demand response measures are available to the plan participant at



no cost, and if so, the participant shall enroll in any such program for which he or she is eligible. The LAAs shall assist the participant in the applicable enrollment or application process.

(10) Each alternative retail electric and gas supplier serving residential customers shall elect whether to participate in the PIPP or ARP described in this Section. Any such supplier electing to participate in the PIPP shall provide to the Department such information as the Department may require, including, without limitation, information sufficient for the Department to determine the proportionate allocation of credits between the alternative supplier and the utility. If a utility in whose service territory an alternative supplier serves customers contributes money to the ARP fund which is not recovered from ratepayers, then an alternative supplier which participates in ARP in that utility's service territory shall also contribute to the ARP fund in an amount that is commensurate with the number of alternative supplier customers who elect to participate in the program.

(d) The Department, in consultation with the Policy Advisory Council, shall develop and implement a program to educate customers about the PIP Plan and about their rights and responsibilities under the percentage of income component. The Department, in consultation with the Policy Advisory Council, shall establish a process that LAAs shall use to contact

customers in jeopardy of losing eligibility due to late payments. The Department shall ensure that LAAs are adequately funded to perform all necessary educational tasks.

(e) The PIPP shall be administered in a manner which ensures that credits to plan participants will not be counted as income or as a resource in other means-tested assistance programs for low-income households or otherwise result in the loss of federal or State assistance dollars for low-income households.

(f) In order to ensure that implementation costs are minimized, the Department and utilities shall work together to identify cost-effective ways to transfer information electronically and to employ available protocols that will minimize their respective administrative costs as follows:

(1) The Commission may require utilities to provide such information on customer usage and billing and payment information as required by the Department to implement the PIP Plan and to provide written notices and communications to plan participants.

(2) Each utility and participating alternative supplier shall file annual reports with the Department and the Commission that cumulatively summarize and update program information as required by the Commission's rules. The reports shall track implementation costs and contain such information as is necessary to evaluate the success of the PIPP.

(3) The Department and the Commission shall have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to execute and administer the provisions of this Section.

(g) Each utility shall be entitled to recover reasonable administrative and operational costs incurred to comply with this Section from the Supplemental Low Income Energy Assistance Fund. The utility may net such costs against monies it would otherwise remit to the Funds, and each utility shall include in the annual report required under subsection (f) of this Section an accounting for the funds collected.

Section 95. No acceleration or delay. Where this Act makes changes in a statute that is represented in this Act by text that is not yet or no longer in effect (for example, a Section represented by multiple versions), the use of that text does not accelerate or delay the taking effect of (i) the changes made by this Act or (ii) provisions derived from any other Public Act.

Section 97. Inseverability. The provisions of this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly are mutually dependent and inseverable. If any provision or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, then this entire Act is invalid. It is the further legislative intent that in such event all other Acts shall not be affected and shall continue to be valid.

Public Act 096-0033

SB1918 Enrolled

LRB096 07889 DRJ 17992 b

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.