



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB4068

Introduced 2/7/2022, by Sen. Sue Rezin

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

5 ILCS 100/5-45.21 new

30 ILCS 105/5.970 new

Creates the Home Heating Relief Act of 2022. Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to create, as soon as practicable, a Home Heating Rebate Program to provide rebates to households that use natural gas or propane gas for heating purposes and that have a median household income between 200% and 400% of the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Provides that eligible households shall receive the rebates as soon as practicable after implementation of the program. Requires the Department to, by rule, establish qualifications for program participation which may include requirements that apply under the Energy Assistance Act and other requirements. Provides that rebates provided under the program shall be funded through appropriations made from the Home Heating Rebate Relief Fund created under the Act. Requires the State Comptroller to direct and the State Treasurer to transfer \$500,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Home Heating Rebate Relief Fund to provide rebates to qualifying households for State fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Provides that any funds left over at the end of the second month following implementation of the program may be awarded to certain qualifying first-time small business owners as determined by the Department. Requires the Department to adopt emergency rules in accordance with the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act to implement the program. Amends the State Finance Act to include the Home Heating Rebate Relief Fund as a special fund. Effective immediately.

LRB102 26171 KTG 35780 b

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Home
5 Heating Relief Act of 2022.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

7 (1) Nearly half of U.S. households that heat with
8 natural gas are projected to spend 30% more than they did
9 last winter on average, according to the Winter Fuels
10 Outlook 2021 report from the U.S. Energy Information
11 Administration. The 41% that heat with electricity are
12 expected to spend 6% more. Propane users will spend 54%
13 more this winter, while heating oil users could see bills
14 go up 43%, according to the report.

15 (2) Energy prices were up 29.3%, according to the
16 December 2021 consumer price index from the U.S. Bureau of
17 Labor Statistics. Furthermore, fuel oil is roughly 40%
18 more expensive than last year, electricity is up 6.3%, and
19 natural gas market prices rose by more than 24%.

20 (3) These scenarios are tough on household budgets as
21 families deal with inflation. The State should do more in
22 addition to the Illinois Low Income Home Energy Assistance
23 Program to help offset some of these high energy prices

1 during the winter months of 2022.

2 Section 10. Home Heating Rebate Program.

3 (a) As soon as practicable, the Department of Commerce and
4 Economic Opportunity shall create a Home Heating Rebate
5 Program to provide rebates to households that use natural gas
6 or propane gas for heating purposes and that have a median
7 household income between 200% and 400% of the poverty
8 guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the
9 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the
10 authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). Eligible households shall
11 receive the rebates as soon as practicable after
12 implementation of the program. The Department shall, by rule,
13 establish qualifications for program participation, which may
14 include requirements that apply under the Energy Assistance
15 Act and other requirements.

16 (b) Rebates provided under the program shall be funded
17 through appropriations made from the Home Heating Rebate
18 Relief Fund created under Section 15. The State Comptroller
19 shall direct and the State Treasurer shall transfer
20 \$500,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Home Heating
21 Rebate Relief Fund to provide rebates to qualifying households
22 for State fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Any funds left over at
23 the end of the second month following implementation of the
24 Home Heating Rebate Program may be awarded to certain
25 qualifying first-time small business owners as determined by

1 the Department.

2 (c) The Department shall adopt emergency rules in
3 accordance with the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act to
4 implement the Home Heating Rebate Program.

5 Section 15. Home Heating Rebate Relief Fund. The Home
6 Heating Rebate Relief Fund is created as a special fund in the
7 State treasury. The Fund shall consist of any moneys deposited
8 into the Fund as provided under subsection (b) of Section 10.
9 Moneys in the Fund shall be expended for the Home Heating
10 Rebate Program as provided under Section 10 and for no other
11 purpose. All interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall be
12 deposited into the Fund.

13 Section 20. The Illinois Administrative Procedure Act is
14 amended by adding Section 5-45.21 as follows:

15 (5 ILCS 100/5-45.21 new)

16 Sec. 5-45.21. Emergency rulemaking; Home Heating Rebate
17 Program. To provide for the expeditious and timely
18 implementation of the Home Heating Rebate Program authorized
19 under the Home Heating Relief Act of 2022, emergency rules
20 implementing the Home Heating Rebate Program may be adopted in
21 accordance with Section 5-45 by the Department of Commerce and
22 Economic Opportunity. The adoption of emergency rules
23 authorized by Section 5-45 and this Section is deemed to be

1 necessary for the public interest, safety, and welfare.

2 This Section is repealed one year after the effective date
3 of this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly.

4 Section 25. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
5 Section 5.970 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.970 new)

7 Sec. 5.970. The Home Heating Rebate Relief Fund.

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