



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB0197

Introduced 1/31/2023, by Sen. Sue Rezin

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

5 ILCS 100/5-45.34 new

30 ILCS 105/5.990 new

Creates the Home Heating Relief Act of 2023. 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 2023 and 2024. 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.

LRB103 00102 KTG 45103 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 2023.

6 Section 5. Legislative finding. The General Assembly finds
7 that the State should do more in addition to the Illinois Low
8 Income Home Energy Assistance Program to help offset some of
9 the high energy prices during the winter months of 2023.

10 Section 10. Home Heating Rebate Program.

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

1 Act and other requirements.

2 (b) Rebates provided under the program shall be funded
3 through appropriations made from the Home Heating Rebate
4 Relief Fund created under Section 15. The State Comptroller
5 shall direct and the State Treasurer shall transfer
6 \$500,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Home Heating
7 Rebate Relief Fund to provide rebates to qualifying households
8 for State fiscal years 2023 and 2024. Any funds left over at
9 the end of the second month following implementation of the
10 Home Heating Rebate Program may be awarded to certain
11 qualifying first-time small business owners as determined by
12 the Department.

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

16 Section 15. Home Heating Rebate Relief Fund. The Home
17 Heating Rebate Relief Fund is created as a special fund in the
18 State treasury. The Fund shall consist of any moneys deposited
19 into the Fund as provided under subsection (b) of Section 10.
20 Moneys in the Fund shall be expended for the Home Heating
21 Rebate Program as provided under Section 10 and for no other
22 purpose. All interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall be
23 deposited into the Fund.

24 Section 20. The Illinois Administrative Procedure Act is

1 amended by adding Section 5-45.34 as follows:

2 (5 ILCS 100/5-45.34 new)

3 Sec. 5-45.34. Emergency rulemaking; Home Heating Rebate
4 Program. To provide for the expeditious and timely
5 implementation of the Home Heating Rebate Program authorized
6 under the Home Heating Relief Act of 2023, emergency rules
7 implementing the Home Heating Rebate Program may be adopted in
8 accordance with Section 5-45 by the Department of Commerce and
9 Economic Opportunity. The adoption of emergency rules
10 authorized by Section 5-45 and this Section is deemed to be
11 necessary for the public interest, safety, and welfare.

12 This Section is repealed one year after the effective date
13 of this amendatory Act of the 103rd General Assembly.

14 Section 25. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
15 Section 5.990 as follows:

16 (30 ILCS 105/5.990 new)

17 Sec. 5.990. The Home Heating Rebate Relief Fund.

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