

1 AN ACT in relation to energy.

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
5 Good Samaritan Energy Plan Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

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

9 "LIHEAP" means the energy assistance program established
10 under the Energy Assistance Act of 1989.

11 Section 10. Legislative findings. The General Assembly
12 finds that high electric and gas bill arrearages are a
13 serious problem for low-income utility consumers in Illinois,
14 often impeding access to service. The General Assembly also
15 finds that the inability to have electric or gas service
16 connected due to high arrearages is a threat to the health
17 and safety of many low-income households in Illinois. The
18 General Assembly further finds that eligibility for LIHEAP
19 does not alleviate the burden of high arrearages for
20 low-income utility consumers and is not enough to enable many
21 households to have electric or gas service connected.

22 Section 15. Good Samaritan Energy Trust Fund. The Good
23 Samaritan Energy Trust Fund is created as a special fund in
24 the State treasury. The Department shall administer the Fund.
25 The Department shall deposit moneys received from the
26 following sources into the Fund:

27 (1) Voluntary donations from individuals,
28 foundations, corporations, and other sources.

29 (2) Proceeds from fundraising events held for the

1 purpose of generating moneys for the Fund.

2 Section 20. Solicitation of contributions to Fund. The
3 Department may insert a fundraising letter requesting
4 voluntary contributions to the Fund in utility bills 2 times
5 each year to solicit contributions to the Fund. All public
6 utilities doing business in the State shall cooperate in
7 allowing the Department to insert fundraising solicitation
8 letters in their utility bills.

9 Section 25. Administration of Fund. The Department shall
10 administer the Good Samaritan Energy Trust Fund with the
11 advice and consent of the Low Income Energy Assistance Policy
12 Advisory Council established under the Energy Assistance Act
13 of 1989. Donations received for the Fund shall be made
14 available for the purpose of alleviating utility bill
15 arrearages for households determined eligible for LIHEAP.
16 Resources from the Fund shall be awarded to local area
17 agencies that have existing contracts with the Department to
18 administer LIHEAP in Illinois.

19 Section 30. Distribution of moneys from Fund. The
20 Department, with the advice and consent of the Low Income
21 Energy Assistance Policy Advisory Council, shall establish
22 priorities for the distribution of moneys from the Good
23 Samaritan Energy Trust Fund to low-income consumers to enable
24 them to pay gas or electric bill arrearages in order to have
25 household gas or electric utility service connected.
26 Low-income consumers who are unable to have their service
27 connected even with a LIHEAP grant shall be given preference.

28 Section 35. Annual report. On or before May 31 of each
29 year, beginning in 2005, the Department shall provide an
30 annual report to the General Assembly on the use and

1 effectiveness of the Good Samaritan Energy Trust Fund. The
2 report shall include the amount of money deposited into the
3 Fund, the amount of money allocated by the Fund for the
4 direct benefit of low-income consumers, the number of
5 low-income households served by the Fund, by county, and
6 recommendations for improving the operation and effectiveness
7 of the Fund.

8 Section 90. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
9 Section 5.595 as follows:

10 (30 ILCS 105/5.595 new)

11 Sec. 5.595. The Good Samaritan Energy Trust Fund.

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