

1                                    AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1066

2                    AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 1066 on page 1, by  
3 replacing lines 4 and 5 with the following:

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.

1 Section 15. Good Samaritan Energy Trust Fund. The Good  
2 Samaritan Energy Trust Fund is created as a special fund in  
3 the State treasury. The Department shall administer the Fund.  
4 The Department shall deposit moneys received from the  
5 following sources into the Fund:

6 (1) Voluntary donations from individuals,  
7 foundations, corporations, and other sources.

8 (2) Proceeds from fundraising events held for the  
9 purpose of generating moneys for the Fund.

10 Section 20. Solicitation of contributions to Fund. The  
11 Department may insert a fundraising letter requesting  
12 voluntary contributions to the Fund in utility bills 2 times  
13 each year to solicit contributions to the Fund. All public  
14 utilities doing business in the State shall cooperate in  
15 allowing the Department to insert fundraising solicitation  
16 letters in their utility bills.

17 Section 25. Administration of Fund. The Department shall  
18 administer the Good Samaritan Energy Trust Fund with the  
19 advice and consent of the Low Income Energy Assistance Policy  
20 Advisory Council established under the Energy Assistance Act  
21 of 1989. Donations received for the Fund shall be made  
22 available for the purpose of alleviating utility bill  
23 arrearages for households determined eligible for LIHEAP.  
24 Resources from the Fund shall be awarded to local area  
25 agencies that have existing contracts with the Department to  
26 administer LIHEAP in Illinois.

27 Section 30. Distribution of moneys from Fund. The  
28 Department, with the advice and consent of the Low Income  
29 Energy Assistance Policy Advisory Council, shall establish  
30 priorities for the distribution of moneys from the Good  
31 Samaritan Energy Trust Fund to low-income consumers to enable

1 them to pay gas or electric bill arrearages in order to have  
2 household gas or electric utility service connected.  
3 Low-income consumers who are unable to have their service  
4 connected even with a LIHEAP grant shall be given preference.

5 Section 35. Annual report. On or before May 31 of each  
6 year, beginning in 2005, the Department shall provide an  
7 annual report to the General Assembly on the use and  
8 effectiveness of the Good Samaritan Energy Trust Fund. The  
9 report shall include the amount of money deposited into the  
10 Fund, the amount of money allocated by the Fund for the  
11 direct benefit of low-income consumers, the number of  
12 low-income households served by the Fund, by county, and  
13 recommendations for improving the operation and effectiveness  
14 of the Fund.

15 Section 90. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
16 Section 5.595 as follows:

17 (30 ILCS 105/5.595 new)

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

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