

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to require the Department of Social Services, or any other agency succeeding in pertinent*  
3 *authority, to allocate federal low-income fuel assistance program funding to low-income*  
4 *weatherization assistance programs.*

5 [H 675]

6 Approved

7 Whereas, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a federally funded program  
8 administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS), provides short-term home heating fuel  
9 assistance to low-income individuals; and

10 Whereas, during program year 1994-1995 DSS paid out more than \$21 million in LIHEAP benefits,  
11 and the average benefit paid per household was \$181; and

12 Whereas, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), administered by the Department of Housing  
13 and Community Development (HCD) and principally funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, is  
14 designed to reduce the energy costs of low-income households by weatherizing homes and providing  
15 essential repairs to heating systems; and

16 Whereas, WAP's statewide budget in 1994-1995 was \$4.7 million, and a budget of \$3.5 million is  
17 projected in 1995-1996 due to declining federal funding for WAP; and

18 Whereas, for the past two years general fund appropriations have been necessary to keep the program  
19 operational statewide—a condition necessary to qualify for federal funding; and

20 Whereas, WAP and LIHEAP should be better coordinated to ensure that individuals and families  
21 eligible for fuel assistance benefits have weatherized homes and heating systems in good repair to help  
22 reduce each home's heating costs while freeing up fuel assistance dollars for other eligible program  
23 participants; and

24 Whereas, Federal LIHEAP regulations permit up to 15 percent of states' LIHEAP grants to be spent  
25 on weatherization, and an additional 10 percent may be spent on weatherization upon application to and  
26 approval by the program's federal administrators; now, therefore,

27 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

28 **1. §1.** *That the Department of Social Services, or any other agency succeeding in pertinent authority, is*  
29 *directed to allocate at least 7.5 percent of all federal low-income fuel assistance program funding made*  
30 *available to the Commonwealth to low-income weatherization assistance programs, to the extent such*  
31 *allocation is permitted by federal law.*

ENROLLED

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