

HB 2134 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

Carrier: Rep. Bentz

Action Date: 03/22/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Barnhart, Bentz, Boone, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Power, Reschke, Smith DB

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Public Utility Commission to establish amount that each electric company should charge consumers so that the total forecasted collection amount in 2018 is \$20 million for low-income bill payment assistance, rather than the existing \$15 million in statute. Authorizes Commission to temporarily adjust rates if forecasted or actual collections are less than \$20 million. Specifies Act takes effect January 2, 2018. Makes non substantive conforming and stylistic changes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislative history
- Cost to system when services have to be turned on and off by utility
- Maintains current funding level of \$20 million

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 461 (2007) which directed the Public Utility Commission to establish a rate to be collected by each electric company so that the total anticipated amount to be collected was \$15 million dollars for low-income electric bill payment assistance. Senate Bill 863 (2011) directed the Public Utility Commission to collect an additional \$5 million per year for the low-income bill payment assistance program in the event certain criteria were met and was scheduled to sunset on January 2, 2014. The Legislature has subsequently extended the sunset during the 2013 (House Bill 2004) and 2015 (House Bill 3257) legislative sessions. The additional \$5 million is scheduled to sunset on January 2, 2018.

House Bill 2134A would not address the additional \$5 million authorized in 2011, allowing it to sunset on January 2, 2018; however, the Act would increase the originally authorized \$15 million to \$20 million effective January 2, 2018.