

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1334

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS (6).

2708H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 660.100, 660.105, and 660.122, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to utilicare.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 660.100, 660.105, and 660.122, RSMo, are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 660.100, 660.105, and 660.122, to read as follows:

660.100. 1. The department of social services is directed to establish a plan for providing financial assistance to elderly households, disabled households and qualified individual households for the payment of charges for the primary or secondary heating or cooling source for the household. This plan shall be known as "Utilicare".

2. For purposes of sections 660.100 to 660.136, the term "elderly" shall mean having reached the age of sixty-five and the term "disabled" shall mean totally and permanently disabled or blind and receiving federal Social Security disability benefits, federal supplemental security income benefits, veterans administration benefits, state blind pension pursuant to sections 209.010 to 209.160, state aid to blind persons pursuant to section 209.240, or state supplemental payments pursuant to section 208.030. For the purposes of sections 660.100 to 660.136, but not for the purpose of determining "eligible subscribers" pursuant to subdivision (4) of section 660.138, the term "qualified individual household" shall mean a household in which:

(1) One or more residents of the state of Missouri reside and whose combined household income is less than or equal to ~~[one hundred and fifty]~~ **two hundred** percent of the current federal poverty level or sixty percent of the state median income for the relevant household; and

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16 (2) While the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program remains in effect,
17 the household is also determined to be eligible for assistance under such program and related
18 state programs of the Missouri department of social services.

660.105. Every qualified individual household for which an application is made, and
2 every applicant household in which the head of the household or spouse is elderly or disabled
3 and the income for the prior calendar year does not exceed ~~[one hundred and fifty]~~ **two hundred**
4 percent of the current federal poverty level or sixty percent of the state median income, shall be
5 an "eligible household" and shall be entitled to receive assistance under the utilicare program if
6 moneys have been appropriated by the general assembly to the utilicare stabilization fund
7 established pursuant to section 660.136. "Income" shall be as defined in section 135.010.

660.122. Funds appropriated under the authority of sections 660.100 to 660.136 may be
2 used to pay the expenses of reconnecting or maintaining service to households that have had their
3 primary or secondary heating or cooling source disconnected or service discontinued because of
4 their failure to pay their bill. Any qualified household or other household which has as its head
5 a person who is elderly or disabled, as defined in section 660.100, shall be eligible for assistance
6 under this section if the income for the household is no more than ~~[one hundred fifty]~~ **two**
7 **hundred** percent of the current federal poverty level or sixty percent of the state median income
8 and if moneys have been appropriated by the general assembly to the utilicare stabilization fund
9 established pursuant to section 660.136. Payments under this section shall be made directly to
10 the primary or secondary heating or cooling source supplier. Any primary or secondary heating
11 or cooling source supplier subject to the supervision and regulation of the public service
12 commission shall, at any time during the period of the cold weather rule specified in the cold
13 weather rule as established and as amended by the public service commission, reconnect and
14 provide services to each household eligible for assistance under this section in compliance with
15 the terms of such cold weather rule. All home energy suppliers receiving funds under this
16 section shall provide service to eligible households consistent with their contractual agreements
17 with the department of social services.

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