



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1334		DATE: 3/24/2021	
COMMITTEE: Utilities			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DARRELL DUNLOP		PHONE NUMBER: 573-544-5975	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CITY OF FULTON		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 18 EAST 4TH STREET			
CITY: FULTON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65251
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: EWELL LAWSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-864-6694	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1808 INTERSTATE 70 DRIVE SW			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JORGEN SCHLEMEIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-4876	
REPRESENTING: AMEREN		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 213 EAST CAPITAL AVENUE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LARRY PLEUS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-821-2999	
REPRESENTING: SPIRE MO		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 700 MARKET STREET			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL C PENDERGAST		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mcp2015law@icloud.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 8:59 PM
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My name is Michael Pendergast. I am on the Board of the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County (CAASTLC). For over half a century, CAASTLC has worked with utilities and other partners to help our most vulnerable citizens lift themselves out of poverty. The distribution of needed energy assistance to customers in need has been a vital component of these efforts. I strongly support the objectives of HB 1334 because it would increase the eligibility for energy assistance to households with incomes up to 200 percent. Such a change would make such assistance available to more of the "working poor", many of whom have continued to work every day to serve their fellow citizens during the Pandemic, but who still need help with the basic necessities of life. It would also help to ensure that Missouri citizens receive those additional funds that have been specifically allocated to Missouri for energy assistance. My only additional recommendation would be the adoption of an amendment that would allow utility customers to be eligible for any form of energy assistance without first being threatened with disconnection of their service due to a failure to keep current on their utility bills. Simply put, customers should not be deprived of energy assistance under the ECIP program solely because they have made the difficult sacrifices needed to pay their bills. I want to thank the sponsor of this legislation and the members of this Committee for their consideration of my testimony. Mike Pendergast



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD SHOCKLEY		PHONE NUMBER: 417-532-0869	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CITY OF LEBANON		TITLE: PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 1401 WEST COMMERCIAL			
CITY: LEBANON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65536
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: STEPHANIE WILSON		PHONE NUMBER: 660-385-3173	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MACON MUNICIPAL UTILITIES		TITLE: UTILITIES MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 106 WEST BOUNCE STREET			
CITY: MACON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63552
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TREY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-8678	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 326 E. CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: trey@missourienergy.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 11:28 AM

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As President of the Missouri Energy Development Association, my investor-owned utility members (Ameren Missouri, Evergy, and Spire) have consistently supported and provided Utilicare assistance to their customers. We support the efforts to make this available for more customers.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 12:50 AM

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**I oppose this Bill. It is confussing and what is the purpose? Explain the Meaning and End Result.
Whom Benefits?**



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CAITLIN WHALEY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-4815	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES		TITLE: LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 221 W. HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/24/2021 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER BRATBURD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-325-2537	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MOST POLICY INITIATIVE		TITLE: POLICY FELLOW	
ADDRESS: 238 E HIGH ST., 3RD FLOOR			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: jenny@mostpolicyinitiative.org	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/23/2021 7:48 PM
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This science note was prepared by MOST Policy Initiative, Inc. a nonprofit organization aimed to improve the health, sustainability, and economic growth of Missouri communities by providing objective, non-partisan information to Missouri's decision makers. For more information, contact Dr. Jenny Bratburd, Energy, Environment & Public Safety Fellow – jenny@mostpolicyinitiative.org. This document was prepared on 3/24/2021. Energy Assistance in Missouri Energy assistance for households unable to afford utility bills or at-risk of having utilities shut off primarily comes from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which provides aid for bills, and the Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program (LIWAP), which helps make households more energy efficient. Missourians may also find relief from state, local and private funders that provide additional assistance. Utilicare is Missouri's LIHEAP supplemental program, but it has not been funded since fiscal year 2018. HB1334 would increase eligibility for Missouri Utilicare from 150% of the federal poverty level (FPL) to 200%. -Energy assistance is available through programs, such as LIHEAP and LIWAP, which cover households at 135-150% of FPL and 200% FPL, respectively. -Energy insecurity leads to negative health and economic impacts; energy assistance can reduce these negative impacts, and investments in energy efficiency can save money for households, reduce medical expenses and reduce work and school absences. Limitations -There is little research available on the long-term impacts of energy assistance funding. Energy Insecurity Energy insecurity is defined as an inability to meet basic household energy needs, typically as a result of low-income households that face high energy costs. Financial hardship and energy costs can be impacted by factors such as job insecurity, seasonal variation in energy needs, tenant-landlord conflicts, and the low-quality of some available affordable housing.¹ In the U.S., the median energy burden is about 3.5% of household income. In Missouri, for households between 150% and 200% of FPL (based on income and household size²), that median burden is doubled (6%), and the burden increases further for lower income families. For instance, families at 50% of FPL pay an average 27% of their household income for energy bills.³ Those most likely to be impacted by energy insecurity tend to be low-income, Black, Latinx, and renter households.⁴ Lack of adequate heating or cooling can result in negative physical and behavioral health outcomes, such as increased acute hospital visits and risks for respiratory illnesses.^{1,5,6} Energy insecure households also face choices between spending money on utility bills instead of other life necessities (e.g., food) and are more likely to face further poverty than households that are not energy burdened.^{7,8} The COVID-19 pandemic has likely exacerbated these challenges as many individuals are unemployed, or may work or attend school from home. Some researchers have suggested expanding energy assistance eligibility during this crisis from 150% to 200% of FPL so benefits can reach more households.⁹ Energy Assistance Programs Several programs assist households with unaffordable energy bills, mainly LIHEAP and LIWAP, described below. States and private entities (including utilities)

may also supplement these programs or offer similar relief programs. Missouri's Utilicare program is designed to supplement LIHEAP but has not been funded since fiscal year 2018. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) LIHEAP assists families with energy costs, usually by contributing funds towards heating bills or in emergency situations where households risk utility disconnection. A portion of LIHEAP funds can also be used to assist with weatherization (i.e., making homes more energy-efficient, as discussed below). LIHEAP is administered federally by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and at the state level in Missouri by the Department of Social Services (DSS) and via subcontracts between DSS and local agencies. States are given some flexibility in setting eligibility requirements for the program. In Missouri, the income requirement is 135% of FPL (although recently the program tested increasing this to 150% of FPL), and the maximum household resources (assets) level is \$3,000. Of note, one study indicates that asset testing can increase program costs and limit participation from some households.¹⁰ Although a household may be eligible for LIHEAP benefits, benefits are limited by money appropriated from Congress and other funding sources. Historically, about 80% of eligible households in a given year do not receive funding. Programs are encouraged to prioritize households with the highest burdens and greatest health risks (e.g., lowest-income or highest energy burdened households, people with disabilities and elderly people). Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program (LIWAP) LIWAP provides energy efficiency upgrades for income-eligible households, in addition to improving occupants' health, safety, and comfort. Eligible households must be below 200% FPL for their household size in accordance with guidelines from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). DOE administers the program federally and in Missouri this program is administered by the Department of Natural Resources and subcontracted with local organizations (usually Community Action Agencies). Weatherization includes a needs assessment and energy audit, with subsequently installed measures based on what will be cost-effective for the home. These weatherization measures may include insulation and caulking, heating and cooling system repairs, appliance replacement (e.g., refrigerators), lighting replacement with LED bulbs, and water heater jackets. LIWAP is estimated to save the average household \$283 every year. In addition, for every \$1 invested in the program, LIWAP yields an estimated \$2.78 in non-energy savings, including safer homes, reduced medical expenses, and fewer missed days of work.¹¹

State, Local, and Utility Programs State, local, and tribal governments can provide additional funding for LIHEAP and other energy assistance programs. At least 16 states, including Iowa and Illinois, have enacted laws to increase assistance for LIHEAP including the option for required or voluntary contributions from utilities.¹² Missouri's Utilicare is an example; however, funding for Utilicare stopped in fiscal year 2018.¹³ Some states also set specific targets for the percent of homes to be weatherized, or reducing energy burden.¹⁴ In Missouri, outside funding for energy assistance includes utility programs. Examples include the Ameren Missouri's Dollar More program, Spire's Dollar Help/Heat Up St. Louis, and City Utilities of Springfield's Project Share. Ameren also offers a COVID-19 Clean Slate program for low-income customers to manage overdue bills; customers pay 25% of their bills, with the Clean Slate program funding the rest.¹⁵

References 1. Hernández, D. Understanding 'energy insecurity' and why it matters to health. *Soc. Sci. Med.* 167, 1–10 (2016). 2. Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. Federal Poverty Guidelines. <https://www.caastlc.org/information-and-guidelines/federal-poverty-guidelines/>. 3. Fisher, Sheehan and Colton. Home Energy Affordability Gap. (2020). 4. Dreho, A. & Ross, L. Lifting the High Energy Burden in America's Largest Cities. (2016). 5. Liddell, C. & Morris, C. Fuel poverty and human health: A review of recent evidence. *Energy Policy* 38, 2987–2997 (2010). 6. Frank, D. A. et al. Heat or Eat: The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and Nutritional and Health Risks Among Children Less Than 3 Years of Age. *Pediatrics* 118, e1293–e1302 (2006). 7. Bhattacharya, J., DeLeire, T., Haider, S. & Currie, J. Heat or Eat? Cold-Weather Shocks and Nutrition in Poor American Families. *Am. J. Public Health* 93, 1149–1154 (2003). 8. Bohr, J. & McCreery, A. C. Do Energy Burdens Contribute to Economic Poverty in the United States? A Panel Analysis. *Soc. Forces* 99, 155–177 (2020). 9. Graff, M. & Carley, S. COVID-19 assistance needs to target energy insecurity. *Nat. Energy* 5, 352–354 (2020). 10. Graff, M. & Pirog, M. Red tape is not so hot: Asset tests impact participation in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. *Energy Policy* 129, 749–764 (2019). 11. US DOE. Weatherization Assistance Program. National Evaluations: Summary of Results. (2015). 12. Shields, L. Bolstering Federal Energy Assistance and Weatherization With State Clean Energy Programs. (2020). 13. Missouri Budget Project. Budget Basics: Family & Economic Security. (2019). 14. Bednar, D. J. & Reames, T. G. Recognition of and response to energy poverty in the United States. *Nat. Energy* 5, 432–439 (2020). 15. Missouri Department of Social Services. Missouri FFY 2020 Revised Model State Plan. (2020).