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SENATE BILL 5686

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Senators Zarelli, Benton, Pridemore, Kline and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/29/2007. Referred to Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications.

1            AN ACT Relating to allowing public utility districts to disburse  
2 low-income energy assistance contributions; and amending RCW 54.52.010  
3 and 54.52.020.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 54.52.010 and 1995 c 399 s 145 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7            A public utility district may include along with, or as part of its  
8 regular customer billings, a request for voluntary contributions to  
9 assist qualified low-income residential customers of the district in  
10 paying their electricity bills. All funds received by the district in  
11 response to such requests shall be (1) transmitted (a) to the grantee  
12 of the department of community, trade, and economic development which  
13 administers federally funded energy assistance programs for the state  
14 in the district's service area or (b) to a charitable organization  
15 within the district's service area; or (2) retained by the district.  
16 All such funds shall be used solely to supplement assistance to low-  
17 income residential customers of the district in paying their  
18 electricity bills. The grantee ~~((or))~~, charitable organization ~~((shall~~

1 ~~be~~)), or district is responsible to determine which of the district's  
2 customers are qualified for low-income assistance and the amount of  
3 assistance to be provided to those who are qualified.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 54.52.020 and 1995 c 399 s 146 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 All assistance provided under this chapter shall be disbursed by  
7 the grantee (~~or~~), charitable organization, or district. (~~Where~~  
8 ~~possible~~) When applicable, the public utility district will be paid on  
9 behalf of the customer by the grantee or the charitable organization.  
10 When direct vendor payment is not feasible, a check will be issued  
11 jointly payable to the customer and the public utility district. The  
12 availability of funds for assistance to a district's low-income  
13 customers as a result of voluntary contributions shall not reduce the  
14 amount of assistance for which the district's customers are eligible  
15 under the federally funded energy assistance programs administered by  
16 the grantee of the department of community, trade, and economic  
17 development within the district's service area. When applicable, the  
18 grantee or charitable organization shall provide the district with a  
19 quarterly report on January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October  
20 15th which includes information concerning the total amount of funds  
21 received from the district, the names of all recipients of assistance  
22 from these funds, the amount received by each recipient, and the amount  
23 of funds received from the district currently on hand and available for  
24 future low-income assistance.

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