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SENATE BILL 480

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Cisco McSorley

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; CLARIFYING THAT THE PUBLIC
REGULATION COMMISSION MAY PERMIT A PUBLIC UTILITY TO CHARGE A
REDUCED UTILITY RATE FOR A LOW-INCOME CUSTOMER; DIRECTING THE
PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION TO PROMULGATE RULES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"Low-Income Energy Assistance Act."

Section 2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Low-Income Energy
Assistance Act:

A. "commission" means the public regulation
commission;

B. "low-income customer" means a household in which
there is at least one person who is eligible for a needs-based
program administered by the human services department;

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1 C. "energy efficiency" means measures, including
2 energy conservation measures or programs that target consumer
3 behavior, equipment or devices, that result in a decrease in
4 consumption of electricity and natural gas without reducing the
5 amount or quality of energy services;

6 D. "public utility" means a utility regulated by
7 the commission; and

8 E. "weatherization" means improving a residence
9 such that it is better protected against severe weather.

10 Section 3. AVAILABILITY OF REDUCED UTILITY RATES.--By
11 January 1, 2009, the commission shall promulgate rules that
12 permit a public utility company to provide reduced rates for
13 electric and gas services used by low-income customers.

14 Section 4. AVAILABILITY OF WEATHERIZATION AND
15 CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.--By January 1, 2009, the commission
16 shall promulgate rules that permit a public utility to provide
17 energy efficiency and weatherization programs and services at
18 reduced rates for low-income customers.

19 Section 5. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
20 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.