

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1961

To provide level funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 7, 2011

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. CARDIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Appropriations

A BILL

To provide level funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “LIHEAP Protection
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE APPRO-**
7 **PRIATIONS.**

8 (a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section—

1 (1) is to ensure the appropriation for fiscal year
2 2012 of the total amounts described in subsection
3 (b), for payments described in that subsection, under
4 this Act or prior appropriations Acts; and

5 (2) is not to require the appropriation of addi-
6 tional amounts for those payments, under appropria-
7 tions Acts enacted after this Act.

8 (b) APPROPRIATION.—In addition to any amounts
9 appropriated under any provision of Federal law, as of the
10 date of enactment of this Act, there is appropriated, out
11 of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
12 for fiscal year 2012—

13 (1) an amount sufficient to yield a total amount
14 of \$4,501,000,000, for making payments under sub-
15 sections (b) and (d) of section 2602 of the Low-In-
16 come Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42
17 U.S.C. 8621), and all of such total amount shall be
18 used under the authority and conditions applicable
19 to such payments under the Full-Year Continuing
20 Appropriations Act, 2011; and

21 (2) an amount sufficient to yield a total amount
22 of \$200,000,000, for making payments under sec-
23 tion 2602(e) of the Low-Income Home Energy As-
24 sistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621(e)), notwith-
25 standing the designation requirement of such section

1 2602(e), and all of such total amount shall be used
2 under the authority and conditions applicable to
3 such payments under the Full-Year Continuing Ap-
4 propriations Act, 2011.

5 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

6 It is the sense of the Senate that—

7 (1) this Act should be carried out in a manner
8 consistent with the Budget Control Act of 2011
9 (Public Law 112–25; 125 Stat. 240);

10 (2) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
11 ices should continue and expedite program integrity
12 efforts to identify best practices used by grant re-
13 cipients under the Low-Income Home Energy Assist-
14 ance Program, provide training and technical assist-
15 ance to such grant recipients, recommend policy
16 changes, and assess and mitigate risk at the Fed-
17 eral, State and local levels, in order to eliminate any
18 waste, fraud, and abuse in the Program and
19 strengthen the Program so all Program funds reach
20 the households who need them most; and

21 (3) every Program dollar going to waste, fraud,
22 and abuse is a dollar not being spent as the dollar
23 is needed or intended.

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