

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 1627

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program payments to assist certain households receiving food stamp benefits.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 2306.097, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2306.097. ENERGY SERVICES PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS. (a) The Energy Services Program for Low-Income Individuals shall operate in conjunction with the community services block grant program and has jurisdiction and responsibility for administration of the following elements of the State Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, from whatever sources funded:

(1) the Energy Crisis Intervention Program;

(2) the weatherization program; and

(3) the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

(b) The department shall enter into an interagency agreement with the Health and Human Services Commission to provide an automatic payment of \$1 each year under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to each household that receives food stamp benefits under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, if the household is not otherwise receiving assistance under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

SECTION 2. (a) Not later than November 1, 2009, the Texas

1 Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Health and  
2 Human Services Commission shall enter into the interagency  
3 agreement required by Section 2306.097(b), Government Code, as  
4 added by this Act.

5 (b) Not later than December 1, 2009, the Texas Department of  
6 Housing and Community Affairs shall begin making automatic payments  
7 under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to recipients  
8 of foods stamp benefits under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code, as  
9 required under Section 2306.097(b), Government Code, as added by  
10 this Act.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.