

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-019

2 State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H3/17/15

3 90th General Assembly

A Bill

4 Regular Session, 2015

HOUSE BILL 1914

5
6 By: Representative K. Ferguson

7 Filed with: House Committee on Insurance and Commerce

8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITY
11 SERVICE TO CONSUMERS; TO AUTHORIZE ELECTRIC UTILITIES
12 TO PROVIDE PREPAID ENERGY PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

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16 CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC
17 UTILITY SERVICE TO CONSUMERS; AND TO
18 AUTHORIZE ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO PROVIDE
19 PREPAID ENERGY PROGRAMS.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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25 *SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Findings and purpose.*

26 *(a) The General Assembly finds that:*

27 *(1) An adequate supply of electricity is essential to the safety*
28 *and well-being of the citizens of this state;*

29 *(2) Through circumstances beyond a citizen's control, the*
30 *citizen temporary may be unable to make utility bill payments on a current*
31 *basis while providing even more basic necessities of life;*

32 *(3) Prepaid energy programs have been successfully adopted in*
33 *neighboring states to address the need to maintain utility service to*
34 *citizens; and*

35 *(4) The public health and welfare of Arkansas citizens requires*
36 *that a similar program be implemented in this state.*

1 (b) The purpose of this act is to require the Arkansas Public Service
2 Commission to develop and implement a prepaid energy program that will
3 provide assistance to citizens of this state who require temporary assistance
4 to purchase access to electrical service for personal and household use.

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6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 18, Subchapter 1, is
7 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

8 23-18-108. Prepaid energy program.

9 (a) The Arkansas Public Service Commission shall develop and implement
10 a prepaid energy program to:

11 (1) Provide temporary assistance to maintain access to
12 electrical service for personal and household use to qualified citizens
13 through public and private resources;

14 (2) Establish qualifications for participation in the program;

15 (3) Establish an application and decision-making process to
16 select qualified applicants and program partners;

17 (4) Determine the rules and procedures for participation in the
18 program; and

19 (5) Maximize public and private resources for the benefit of the
20 program.

21 (b)(1) The commission shall file an annual report with the Legislative
22 Council and the House and Senate cochairs of the Joint Committee on Energy on
23 or before October 1.

24 (2) The report shall include without limitation:

25 (A) A summary of the program;

26 (B) The number and location of program participants;

27 (C) Funding sources and funding needs to adequately reach
28 the target population for the program;

29 (D) Providers of electricity that participate in the
30 program; and

31 (E) Recommendations to improve the program.

32 (c) The commission may promulgate rules to implement this section.

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34 /s/K. Ferguson
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1 Referred by the Arkansas House of Representatives

2 Prepared by: VJF

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