

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2486

4  
5 By: Representative Lendall  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO CREATE "THE ELECTRIC ENERGY CONSUMERS  
10 PUBLIC BENEFITS ACT"; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

### Subtitle

12  
13 THE ELECTRIC ENERGY CONSUMERS PUBLIC  
14 BENEFITS ACT.  
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20 SECTION 1. This act shall be known as the "Electric Energy Consumer's  
21 Public Benefits Act."  
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23 SECTION 2. Due to uncertainties within the electric utilities industry  
24 and to assure that Arkansans have a mechanism in place to develop demand side  
25 investment, stimulate renewable energy development, and provide help for low-  
26 income families to take positive measures to reduce their energy consumption,  
27 the General Assembly enacts the Electric Energy Consumer's Public Benefits  
28 Act.  
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30 SECTION 3. (a) The Arkansas Public Service Commission shall establish  
31 a public benefits charge that shall fund:

32 (1) Energy efficiency programs;

33 (2) Low-income programs; and

34 (3) Renewable energy development.

35 (b) All electric energy generated from non-renewable fuel sources,  
36 transmitted by means of the electric grid, and consumed within the state

1 shall be subject to the public benefits charge by means of a non-bypassable  
2 rider.

3 (c) The Arkansas Department of Economic Development shall administer  
4 the public benefits charge.

5 (d)(1)(A) The Arkansas Department of Economic Development shall with  
6 recommendations from the Arkansas Public Service Commission, the Arkansas  
7 Association of Community Action Agencies, energy providers, industry,  
8 academia, and other interested or affected parties design and develop the  
9 programs and uses of funds in the public benefits charge through  
10 collaborative meetings and public hearings.

11 (B) Qualifying programs shall maximize use of public  
12 benefits charge funds through interest "buy-downs" or other leverages  
13 wherever possible.

14 (C) The Arkansas Department of Economic Development shall  
15 define a mechanism and schedule for review, evaluation, deletion, alteration  
16 or addition of programs.

17 (2) Costs to manage and administer the public benefits charge  
18 that are incurred by the Arkansas Department of Economic Development shall be  
19 reimbursed from the public benefits charge annually.

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21 SECTION 4. The Arkansas Department of Economic Development may  
22 promulgate rules and regulations to administer the provisions of this act.

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