SENATE BILL 546

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

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO UTILITY RATES; ENACTING THE LOW INCOME ENERGY
ASSISTANCE ACT.

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

Section 1. A new Section 62-8A-1 NMSA 1978 is enacted to
read:

"62-8A-1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--Chapter 62,
Article 8A NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Low Income Energy
Assistance Act"."

Section 2. A new Section 62-8A-2 NMSA 1978 is enacted to
read:

"62-8A-2. [NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSES.--The purposes of the
Low Income Energy Assistance Act are to ensure that electric
and gas rate increases do not force low-income New Mexicans to
discontinue necessary energy services and to preserve the

.164735.1

1   affordability of necessary energy services for low-income New

2   Mexicans by providing assistance to meet their costs."

3   Section 3.   A new Section 62-8A-3 NMSA 1978 is enacted to

4   read:

5   "62-8A-3.   [NEW MATERIAL] LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE RATES--

6   COMMISSION AUTHORITY.--

7   A.   A public utility may provide assistance in the

8   form of reduced rates for electric and gas service to those

9   persons who meet the eligibility criteria of one or more

10   need-based assistance programs administered by the human

11   services department.

12   B.   A public utility acting pursuant to the

13   provisions of Section 62-17-5 NMSA 1978 may provide assistance

14   in the form of cost-effective conservation and efficiency

15   programs and home weatherization services targeted specifically

16   to those persons who meet the eligibility criteria of one or

17   more need-based assistance programs administered by the human

18   services department.

19   C.   The commission shall promulgate rules and

20   regulations for the implementation of the Low Income Energy

21   Assistance Act for those public utilities that provide such

22   assistance."

23   Section 4.   A new Section 62-8A-4 NMSA 1978 is enacted to

24   read:

25   "62-8A-4.   [NEW MATERIAL] DISCRIMINATION.--Nothing in

.164735.1

Chapter 62 NMSA 1978, including specifically Section 62-8-6
NMSA 1978, shall prohibit the commission from approving reduced
rates for persons who meet the eligibility criteria for one or
more need-based assistance programs administered by the human
services department."