

SENATE BILL No. 695

January 13, 2016, Introduced by Senators JOHNSON, HERTEL and ANANICH and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to create a water affordability program; to create a water affordability fund to provide assistance to low-income state residents for water services; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state departments.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "water
2 affordability act".

3 Sec. 3. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Department" means the department of health and human
5 services.

6 (b) "Eligible customer" means a customer whose household
7 income does not exceed 200% of the poverty guidelines, as published
8 by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

1 (c) "Fund" means the water affordability fund created in
2 section 7.

3 Sec. 5. (1) The water affordability program is created within
4 the department. The department shall develop and administer the
5 water affordability program under this act.

6 (2) Under the water affordability program, the department
7 shall do all of the following:

8 (a) Review eligibility criteria to determine whether an
9 individual is an eligible customer.

10 (b) Determine the household income of eligible customers.

11 (c) Disburse money from the fund to eligible customers to
12 assist with payment of the eligible customer's water services bill.
13 The department shall determine the amount of money from the fund to
14 provide each eligible customer.

15 Sec. 7. (1) The water affordability fund is created within the
16 state treasury.

17 (2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from
18 any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall
19 direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit
20 to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments.

21 (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall
22 remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

23 (4) The department shall be the administrator of the fund for
24 auditing purposes.

25 (5) The department shall expend money from the fund, upon
26 appropriation, only for 1 or more of the following purposes:

27 (a) To administer the water affordability program created

1 under this act.

2 (b) To provide eligible customers with assistance for water
3 services.

4 Enacting section 1. This act takes effect 90 days after the
5 date it is enacted into law.