

48:2-29.33

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 48:2-29.33 (Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program-- increase maximum amount of assistance)

LAWS 1982 CHAPTER 139

Bill No. A1112

Sponsor(s) Van Wagner and others

Date Introduced March 8, 1982

Committee: Assembly Revenue, Finance and Appropriations

Senate Revenue, Finance & Appropriations; Transportation &

Amended during passage Yes No ^{Communications}

Date of Passage: Assembly May 13, 1982

Senate July 22, 1982

Date of approval Sept. 16, 1982

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes No (Below)

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes No

Senate Yes No 6-10-82 8-12-82

Fiscal Note Yes No

Veto Message Yes No

Message on signing Yes No

Following were printed:

Reports Yes No

Hearings Yes No

Sponsors' statement:

This bill increases from \$150.00 to \$175.00 the amount of the annual utility cost relief provided to eligible tenants under the "Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program" established in P.L. 1981, c.210 (C.48:2-29.30 et seq.). This increase would apply to fiscal year 1982-83.

6/22/81

ej

Do Not Remove From Library DEPOSITION COPY

ASSEMBLY, No. 1112

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 8, 1982

By Assemblymen VAN WAGNER, DOYLE, PATERO,
BOCCHINI and JACKMAN

Referred to Committee on Revenue, Finance and Appropriations

AN ACT concerning utility cost relief for certain tenants, and
amending P. L. 1981, c. 210.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. Section 4 of P. L. 1981, c. 210 (C. 48:2-29.33) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 4. Any residential tenant found eligible for the "Tenants Life-
4 line Assistance Program" shall be entitled to an annual tenants
5 assistance payment, except as otherwise provided herein, at his
6 principal residence. No household or rental unit, as appropriate,
7 shall receive more than one tenants assistance payment for any
8 fiscal year. No household shall receive during the same fiscal year
9 both a tenants assistance payment and a lifeline credit allowed pur-
10 suant to P. L. 1979, c. 197 (C. 48:2-29.15 et seq.). *The annual*
11 *tenants assistance payment shall be \$175.00.* Subject to the avail-
12 ability of appropriations, the [tenants assistance payment] *level of*
13 *assistance shall be [\$150.00] increased to \$200.00* beginning in
14 October, [1981] *1983.*

1 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1982.

STATEMENT

This bill increases from \$150.00 to \$175.00 the amount of the annual utility cost relief provided to eligible tenants under the "Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program" established in P. L. 1981, c. 210 (C. 48:2-29.30 et seq.). This increase would apply to fiscal year 1982-83.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.
Matter printed in italics *thus* is new matter.

This bill also increases the assistance to \$200.00 for fiscal year 1983-84 and each year thereafter subject to the availability of appropriations.

ASSEMBLY REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1112

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 25, 1982

This bill increases from \$150.00 to \$175.00 the amount of the annual utility cost relief provided to eligible tenants under the "Tenants Life-line Assistance Program" established in P. L. 1981, c. 210 (C. 48:2-29.30 et seq.). This increase would apply to fiscal year 1982-83.

This bill also increases the credit to \$200.00 for fiscal year 1983-84 subject to the availability of appropriations.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 1112

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 10, 1982

This bill increases from \$150.00 to \$175.00 the amount of the annual utility cost relief payment provided to eligible tenants under the "Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program" established in P. L. 1981, c. 210 (C. 48:2-29.30 et seq.). This increase would apply to fiscal year 1982-83.

Subject to the availability of appropriations, this bill also increases the payment to \$200.00 in fiscal year 1983-84, beginning in October 1983.

The proposed budget for 1982-83 provides for the funding of this program during that fiscal year. The revenues are to be derived from the tax on casino gross revenue.

SENATE REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 1112

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JULY 12, 1982

Assembly Bill No. 1112 increases the annual tenants' lifeline assistance payment for utility cost relief from \$150.00 to \$175.00. The cost of the \$25.00 per recipient increase is included in the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1983.

The bill further directs that, subject to the availability of appropriations, the assistance payment shall be increased to \$200.00 beginning in October, 1983. The increased cost for this provision would first impact on the State budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1984.

FISCAL BACKGROUND

The State budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1983, includes \$18,655,000.00 for tenants' lifeline assistance. That amount provides \$175.00 each for an estimated 106,600 recipients.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

CONTACT: CARL GOLDEN

SEPTEMBER 16, 1982

Governor Thomas H. Kean today signed a package of legislation to increase the reduced utility cost program for senior citizens, to broaden educational opportunities for seniors, and to permit increased aid for senior citizen organizations.

The Governor signed the four bills during a ceremony at a Senior Citizens Cultural Festival in the South Mountain Arena in West Orange. The event was sponsored by the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

The four bills are:

• An increase from \$150 to \$175 in the amount of credit against utility bills for eligible senior citizens and the disabled for this fiscal year and an increase to \$200 in the next fiscal year. The increase will cost \$6 million each year.

• The same increase in the credit for eligible senior citizens and the disabled who are tenants, rather than homeowners. The increase will cost \$2.6 million each year.

• Elimination of the \$3,000 now in the law as the limit which counties and municipalities may contribute to a non-profit senior citizen center.

• Permits state colleges to enroll senior citizens in credit courses free of charge if space is available.

"The increase in the lifeline credit will help seniors and the disabled to keep pace with the increase in utility costs and will aid in easing the financial burden caused by those cost increases," Kean said. "For many of our seniors and disabled, this assistance in meeting utility bills has spelled the difference between financial stability and bankruptcy."

"Removal of the ceiling on amounts which counties and municipalities may contribute to a senior citizen center will give local governing bodies much more flexibility in their level of support for such centers," Kean said. "In many instances, the \$3,000 limit prevented local governments from providing the level of assistance necessary to keep the centers in full operation."

Kean said permitting seniors to enroll in credit courses at state colleges free of charge "is another example of government's commitment to assuring that the elderly population of the state have the opportunity to broaden their educational horizons."

The bill to increase the lifeline credit for homeowners, A-1113, was sponsored by Assemblyman John Doyle, D-Ocean.

The bill to increase the lifeline credit for tenants, A-1112, was sponsored by Assemblyman Richard VanWagner, D-Monmouth.

The bill to eliminate the contribution ceiling, A-547, was sponsored by Assemblyman Jorge Rod, R-Ocean.

The bill to permit seniors to take credit courses free of charge, A-536, was sponsored by Assemblyman John Bennett, R-Monmouth.

#