

48:2-29.33

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 48:2-29.33

(Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program increase annual amount of relief)

LAWS OF: 1983

CHAPTER: 250

Bill No: A3120

Sponsor(s): Van Wagner

Date Introduced: January 31, 1983

Committee: Assembly: ///

Senate: Revenue, Finance and Appropriations

Amended during passage: // No Substituted for S3129 (not attached since identical to A3120)

Date of Passage: Assembly: February 14, 1983

Senate: June 16, 1983

Date of Approval: July 7, 1983

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee statement: Assembly No

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on Signing: Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

RECEIVED
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
TREASURY

ASSEMBLY, No. 3120
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 31, 1983

By Assemblyman VAN WAGNER

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]** \$200.00. Subject to
12 the availability of appropriations, the level of assistance shall be
13 increased to **[\$200.00]** \$225.00 beginning in October, **[1983]** 1984.

1 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1983.

STATEMENT

This bill increases from \$175.00 to \$200.00 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 1983-84.

This bill also increases the assistance to \$225.00 for fiscal year 1984-85 and each year thereafter subject to the availability of funds.

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.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3120

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This bill also increases the assistance to \$225.00 for fiscal year 1984-85 and each year thereafter subject to the availability of funds.

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SENATE REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3120

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 7, 1983

Assembly Bill No. 3120 increases from \$175.00 to \$200.00 the amounts 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 1983-84 and funding for the increase is recommended in the budget message for fiscal year 1983-84.

This bill also increases the assistance to \$225.00 for fiscal year 1984-85 and each year thereafter subject to the availability of funds.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

CONTACT: PAUL WOLCOTT

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1983

Governor Thomas H. Kean today signed legislation to implement the increases in utility "Lifeline" programs for elderly and disabled homeowners and tenants that he proposed in the Fiscal Year 83-84 budget.

The bills increase the annual electric and gas utility bill credit available to eligible residents from \$175 to \$200 this year and to \$225 in 1984. The program will mean extra utility bill assistance to about 37,000 homeowners and 203,000 tenants.

The bill providing the increase for homeowners, A-3121, was sponsored by Assemblyman John P. Doyle, D-Ocean. The increase for tenants is contained in A-3120, sponsored by Assemblyman Richard Van Wagner, D-Monmouth.

Both increases are part of the Governor's program for the use of Casino Revenue Fund monies as proposed in FY 83-84 budget.

"We must remember that the same economic conditions that make it difficult to operate State government have made life even more difficult for thousands of our disadvantaged citizens," Kean said. "We must seize every opportunity to help make their lives easier."

"The Lifeline programs are of vital importance, particularly in this era of unpredictable and escalating energy costs," the Governor said. "For many people they mean the difference between staying warm or freezing, or being forced to choose between eating and living in the dark."

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THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1983

The Governor noted that his proposal includes an additional increase to \$250 in 1985. Legislation to implement that final hike will be introduced in the future, he said.

To be eligible for the Lifeline programs a resident must be 65 or over, or receiving Social Security disability benefits. Income limits are \$12,000 per year or less for a single individual, \$15,000 a year or less for a married couple. The benefit is available only for the applicant's principal residence, and only one annual credit may go to a household. If both electricity and gas are provided by a single utility, the credit is applied to the combined annual bills. If two separate utilities supply one customer, the annual credit is divided equally between them.

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