

48:2-29.17

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 48:2-29.17

(Lifeline Credit Program -
increases annual amount of credit)

LAWS OF: 1983

CHAPTER: 251

Bill No: A3121

Sponsor(s): Doyle

Date Introduced: January 31, 1983

Committee: Assembly:

Senate: Revenue, Finance and Appropriation

Amended during passage: No

Substituted for S3147 (not attached
since identical to A3121)

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

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ASSEMBLY, No. 3121

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 31, 1983

By Assemblyman DOYLE

AN ACT concerning utility bill credits, and amending P. L. 1979,
c. 197.

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

1 1. Section 3 of P. L. 1979, c. 197 (C. 48:2-29.17) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 3. The "Lifeline Credit Program" shall consist of an annual credit
4 against the electric or gas utility bill of each eligible residential
-5 electric or gas customer at his principal residence. Such credit shall
6 be applied to the electric or gas utility bills of such customer as
7 soon as may be practicable, but in no case later than the bills issued
8 in October of each year or as soon thereafter as eligibility is deter-
9 mined, and shall be applied to each subsequent utility bill after the
10 first until the full amount of the credit is exhausted. No household
11 shall receive more than one annual credit. In the event that electric
12 and gas are provided to the same customer by the same utility, the
13 total annual credit shall be applied to the combined bills from such
14 utility. In the event that electric and gas are provided to the same
15 customer by two separate utilities, half of the total annual credit
16 shall be applied to the bills from each such utility. The annual credit
17 shall be **[\$175.00]** \$200.00. Subject to the availability of appropria-
18 tions, the level of credit shall be increased to **[\$200.00]** \$225.00
19 beginning in October, **[1983]** 1984.

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

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.

STATEMENT

This bill increases from \$175.00 to \$200.00 the annual electric and gas utility bill credit provided to eligible senior and disabled citizens under the "Lifeline Credit Program." This increase would apply to fiscal year 1983-84.

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

A3121 (1983)

SENATE REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3121

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 7, 1983

Assembly Bill No. 3121 increases from \$175.00 to \$200.00 the annual electric and gas utility bill credit provided to eligible senior and disabled citizens under the "Lifeline Credit Program." 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 credit 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 WOLCGTT

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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LIFELINE BILLS, A-3120 and A-3121

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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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