

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 270, *approved January 12, 2026*
Assembly, No. 5733

1 **AN ACT** providing for reviews and increases of income thresholds
2 for certain utility bill payment assistance and energy efficiency
3 programs.
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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
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8 1. Within one year of the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending
9 before the Legislature as this bill), the Department of Community
10 Affairs, Department of Human Services, Board of Public Utilities, and
11 any other State agency that administers a utility bill payment
12 assistance program or energy efficiency program active upon the
13 effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this
14 bill) shall review the income threshold for residential customers to
15 participate in those programs, and increase the income threshold if the
16 department, board, or agency determines an increase to be appropriate.
17 A review completed pursuant to this section shall consider factors such
18 as the alignment of separate low-income and moderate-income income
19 thresholds used across programs and agencies, the use of alternate
20 income thresholds, including State median income, and the aggregate
21 cost and impacts of the increased income thresholds. A State agency
22 shall request public comment, in a form and manner determined by
23 that State agency, or seek assistance from other State agencies, to
24 determine an appropriate increase to the program’s income threshold.
25 If an increase in income thresholds for the State’s low-income energy
26 efficiency programs is ordered, the Board of Public Utilities shall
27 assess if further guidance is necessary to change income thresholds in
28 the utilities’ triennium energy efficiency and peak demand reduction
29 programs for moderate-income energy efficiency programs to ensure
30 that low- and moderate-income customers are eligible for only one
31 energy efficiency assistance program and to expand access to
32 moderate-income programs, if appropriate.
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34 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
35 the date of the final income threshold increase required of a State
36 agency.

STATEMENT

This bill requires the Department of Community Affairs, Department of Human Services, Board of Public Utilities (BPU), and any other State agency that administers a utility bill payment assistance program or energy efficiency program to, within one year of the bill's effective date, complete a review of the program, as provided for in the bill, and increase the income threshold if the department, board, or agency determines an increase to be appropriate.

The bill requires that a State agency request public comment, in a form and manner determined by that State agency, or seek assistance from other State agencies, to determine an appropriate increase to the program's income threshold.

The bill further specifies that if an increase in income thresholds for the State's low-income energy efficiency programs is ordered, the BPU is required to assess if further guidance is necessary to change income thresholds in the utilities' triennium energy efficiency and peak demand reduction programs for moderate-income energy efficiency programs to ensure that low- and moderate-income customers are eligible for only one energy efficiency assistance program and to expand access to moderate-income programs, if appropriate.

Provides for State agency reviews and increases of income thresholds for residential customers to participate in certain utility bill payment assistance and energy efficiency programs.