

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3509

TITLE: An Act relative to automatic re-enrollment in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

SPONSOR: Representative Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: September 25, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: 2023-2024: H.3180 heard by the TUE Committee; reported favorably to House Ways & Means (HWM) where no further action was taken

CURRENT LAW:

Section 1 of Chapter 174 of the Acts of 2022 requires the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED), in coordination with the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA), the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), the Executive Office of Education (EOE), and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) to develop and implement a secure common application portal for individuals to simultaneously apply for state-administered needs-based benefits and services. Individuals may simultaneously apply for numerous benefits and services, including fuel assistance.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the agencies responsible for developing the secure common application portal, established through Section 1 of Chapter 174 of the Acts of 2022, to ensure that individuals who apply for and receive fuel assistance through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are automatically re-enrolled for such benefits for the following heating season, provided they continue to meet federal and state eligibility requirements. The winter heating season shall be from November 1 to April 30 each year, unless the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) determines otherwise.