

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
90th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: H3/17/15

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1914

By: Representative K. Ferguson

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICE TO CONSUMERS; TO AUTHORIZE ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO PROVIDE PREPAID ENERGY PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICE TO CONSUMERS; AND TO AUTHORIZE ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO PROVIDE PREPAID ENERGY PROGRAMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

*SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Findings and purpose.*

*(a) The General Assembly finds that:*

*(1) An adequate supply of electricity is essential to the safety and well-being of the citizens of this state;*

*(2) Through circumstances beyond a citizen's control, the citizen temporary may be unable to make utility bill payments on a current basis while providing even more basic necessities of life;*

*(3) Prepaid energy programs have been successfully adopted in neighboring states to address the need to maintain utility service to citizens; and*

*(4) The public health and welfare of Arkansas citizens requires that a similar program be implemented in this state.*

*(b) The purpose of this act is to require the Arkansas Public Service Commission to develop and implement a prepaid energy program that will*



provide assistance to citizens of this state who require temporary assistance to purchase access to electrical service for personal and household use.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 23, Chapter 18, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23-18-108. Prepaid energy program.

(a) The Arkansas Public Service Commission shall develop and implement a prepaid energy program to:

(1) Provide temporary assistance to maintain access to electrical service for personal and household use to qualified citizens through public and private resources;

(2) Establish qualifications for participation in the program;

(3) Establish an application and decision-making process to select qualified applicants and program partners;

(4) Determine the rules and procedures for participation in the program; and

(5) Maximize public and private resources for the benefit of the program.

(b)(1) The commission shall file an annual report with the Legislative Council and the House and Senate cochairs of the Joint Committee on Energy on or before October 1.

(2) The report shall include without limitation:

(A) A summary of the program;

(B) The number and location of program participants;

(C) Funding sources and funding needs to adequately reach the target population for the program;

(D) Providers of electricity that participate in the program; and

(E) Recommendations to improve the program.

(c) The commission may promulgate rules to implement this section.

/s/K. Ferguson