

CHAPTER 207

AN ACT providing for the allocation of \$25 million for utility assistance grants for qualified households.

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

1. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary of section 12 of P.L.1999, c.23 (C.48:3-60) or any law, or any rule, regulation, or order adopted pursuant thereto, in the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010, the Board of Public Utilities shall, from available balances accumulated in accounts of the board from funds collected through the societal benefits charge imposed pursuant to that section, allocate \$25 million to fund the payment of grants to help pay the gas and electric public utility bills of households seeking temporary assistance from the New Jersey Statewide Heating Assistance and Referral for Energy Services, Inc. (NJSHARES) or another equivalent nonprofit energy organization designated by the board.

Within one year after the board shall have completed the disbursement of grant monies to a nonprofit energy organization under this section, that nonprofit energy organization shall issue a report to the board which provides the number of applicants applying for household utility assistance grants, the number of households receiving utility assistance grants, the average amount of assistance provided, the average gross income of households receiving assistance, the methods and procedures used for the verification of income or hardship, and any other information as required by the board. The board shall thereupon submit such report to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2010 and shall expire on the 30th day following submission to the Legislature of the report required to be issued pursuant to section 1 of this act.

Approved January 15, 2010.