

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to energy; authorizing temporary use of conservation investment
1.3 program spending for emergency bill payment assistance.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **TEMPORARY USE OF CONSERVATION INVESTMENT**
1.6 **PROGRAM SPENDING FOR BILL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE.**

1.7 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.241, or the terms of a
1.8 conservation investment plan approved by the commissioner of commerce under
1.9 Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.241, a utility or association may spend up to 50 percent
1.10 of its spending and investment for energy conservation and improvements required by
1.11 Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.241, subdivisions 1a and 1b, in calendar years 2010 and
1.12 2011 to assist its low-income customers in paying gas and electric heating bills. The
1.13 spending authorized by this section must be included in determining whether a utility
1.14 or association has met its spending and investing obligation under Minnesota Statutes,
1.15 section 216B.241, subdivisions 1a and 1b. Payments authorized under this section must be
1.16 made to the commissioner of commerce for use in the low-income home energy assistance
1.17 program (LIHEAP). The commissioner must deposit and administer the payments in the
1.18 same manner as other LIHEAP program funds, except that the commissioner must transfer
1.19 the payments to local service providers serving the customers of the utility or association
1.20 making the payment and the local service provider must use the transferred money for
1.21 the benefit of those customers. The energy-savings goals of a utility or association
1.22 under Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.241, subdivision 1c, are not reduced because of
1.23 payments authorized by this section.

2.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.