

HB1001 / SB719

For Seniors 65+



Home Energy Assistance Application Automatic Yearly Renewals

Problem:

Older adults 65+ must re-apply year in and year out.

- One-third of OHEP-eligible families are seniors on fixed incomes.
- Seniors struggle w/ Office of Home Energy Programs application.
- Many can't get to local "OHEP" offices.
- Uploading & having all necessary verification documents is arduous.

Solution:

Auto-enroll seniors 65+ each year after initial entry into OHEP.

- Send yearly postcard. Family verifies that income & household profile is the same.
- Reduces work burdens for OHEP offices.
- Keeps home energy bills affordable for low-income Seniors.

Hearings:

House sponsor: Delegate Carey, ECM hearing March 3rd, 1pm

Senate sponsor: Sen. Benson, Senate Finance March 1st, 1pm

HB1001/SB 719

How is this bill a solution?

Simplifies energy assistance participation for seniors (65 yrs.+) to get Energy Assistance grants to make home energy bills more affordable and to keep on their heat and lights lights.

Broad stakeholder working group collaborating since May 2021.
(Utilities, state agencies, non-profits and other organizations.)

Problem:

- Forty-one percent of 400,000 eligible households for energy assistance grants ("OHEP") are 60 yrs. and older.
- There are many barriers to getting these grants.
- Pandemic really brought to light the challenges that seniors have in getting through the process.
- Seniors need extra help which this program would provide.
- Seniors need to be re enrolled each year in the program without having to do a new application which this program provides.
- Tricky application (6 different grants!) and ID, social security cards, income verification and utility bill needed.

We need your support for Maryland seniors!

For more information contact Cindy Carter
Co-Founder of Critical Medical Needs Program

(passed into law 2019)

410-964-9563

cpcarter@aol.com