- 1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 448
- 2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 448, AS AMENDED, by
- 3 replacing the title with the following:
- 4 "AN ACT in relation to assistance for low-income
- 5 persons."; and
- 6 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the
- 7 following:
- 8 "Section 5. The Energy Assistance Act of 1989 is amended
- 9 by changing Section 6 as follows:
- 10 (305 ILCS 20/6) (from Ch. 111 2/3, par. 1406)
- 11 Sec. 6. Eligibility, Conditions of Participation, and
- 12 Energy Assistance.
- 13 (a) Any person who is a resident of the State of
- 14 Illinois and whose household income is not greater than an
- 15 amount determined annually by the Department, in consultation
- 16 with the Policy Advisory Council, may apply for assistance
- 17 pursuant to this Act in accordance with regulations
- 18 promulgated by the Department. In setting the annual
- 19 eligibility level, the Department shall consider the amount
- of available funding and may not set a limit higher than the
- 21 <u>household income level established pursuant to 42 U.S.C.</u>

- 1 8624(b)(2)(B). In the event that 42 U.S.C. 8624(b)(2)(B)
- 2 authorizes more than one maximum household income level, the
- Department may set the eligibility level at the level that 3
- 4 results in the largest number of persons eligible for
- assistance. 150%--of--the--federal--nonfarm-poverty-level-as 5
- 6 established-by-the-federal-Office-of-Management-and-Budget.
- 7 (b) Applicants who qualify for assistance pursuant to
- 8 subsection (a) of this Section shall, subject to
- 9 appropriation from the General Assembly and subject to
- availability of funds to the Department, receive energy 10
- 11 assistance as provided by this Act. The Department, upon
- receipt of monies authorized pursuant to this Act for energy 12
- assistance, shall commit funds for each qualified applicant 13
- in an amount determined by the Department. In determining 14
- the amounts of assistance to be provided to or on behalf of a 15
- 16 qualified applicant, the Department shall ensure that the
- highest amounts of assistance go to households with the 17
- 18 greatest energy costs in relation to household income.
- 19 Department shall include factors such as energy costs,
- household size, household income, and region of the State 20
- 21 when determining individual household benefits. In setting
- 22 assistance levels, the Department shall attempt to provide
- 23 assistance to approximately the same number of households who
- in the 1991 Residential Energy Assistance 24 participated
- 25 Partnership Program. Such assistance levels shall be
- adjusted annually on the basis of funding availability.
- promulgating rules for the administration of this Section the

Department shall assure that a minimum of 1/3 of funds

- 29 available for benefits to eligible households are made
- 30 available to households who are eligible for public
- assistance and that elderly and disabled households are 31
- 32 offered a one-month application period.

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- If the applicant is not a customer of an energy 33
- 34 provider for winter energy services or an applicant for such

- 1 service, such applicant shall receive a direct energy
- 2 assistance payment in an amount established by the Department
- 3 for all such applicants under this Act; provided, however,
- 4 that such an applicant must have rental expenses for housing
- 5 greater than 30% of household income.
- 6 (d) If the applicant is a customer of an energy
- 7 provider, such applicant shall receive energy assistance in
- 8 an amount established by the Department for all such
- 9 applicants under this Act, such amount to be paid by the
- 10 Department to the energy provider supplying winter energy
- 11 service to such applicant. Such applicant shall:
- 12 (i) make all reasonable efforts to apply to any
- other appropriate source of public energy assistance; and
- 14 (ii) sign a waiver permitting the Department to
- 15 receive income information from any public or private
- 16 agency providing income or energy assistance and from any
- 17 employer, whether public or private.
- 18 (e) Any qualified applicant pursuant to this Section may
- 19 receive or have paid on such applicant's behalf an emergency
- 20 assistance payment to enable such applicant to obtain access
- 21 to winter energy services. Any such payments shall be made
- in accordance with regulations of the Department.
- 23 (Source: P.A. 91-936, eff. 1-10-01.)
- 24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
- 25 becoming law.".