

House Republican Press Release

August 22, 2008
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Mike Alberts Supports Emergency Energy Assistance



Legislature Approves Energy Relief in Late Night Session
Residents Can Apply and Obtain Information by Calling the State 2-1-1 Hotline

State Rep. Mike Alberts, R-50th District, Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Pomfret, Woodstock, has supported emergency energy assistance legislation adopted in a special session that ended early Saturday morning.

“The state has a small surplus left over from last year and many people will be facing a winter home heating crisis,” said Rep. Alberts. “It makes sense to expand existing programs to help people deal with skyrocketing costs of fuel.”

Legislation adopted during the one-day special session provides:

- \$8.5 million for Operation Fuel to provide emergency assistance to households with income between 151% and 200% of the federal poverty level (\$31,800 to \$42,400 for a family of four).
- \$5 million for Operation Fuel to provide emergency assistance to households between 200% of the federal poverty level and 100% of the state media income (\$42,400 to \$93,821 for a family of four)
- \$6.5 million for municipal grants to assist in heating public schools
- \$4 million to provide home heating assistance to residents 62 years of age and older
- \$3.5 million for home heating assistance grants to non-profits that provide human services or public health services for the state
- \$3 million in additional funding for a rebate program for residential furnace/boiler replacement
- \$2 million for rebates to residents that repair or upgrade their existing furnace/boiler to achieve greater efficiencies

- \$2 million to change a furnace replacement loan program from low to zero interest. It increases those eligible for the program from 150% to 200% of the state median income (up to \$187,642 for a family of four)
- \$35 million for an Energy Contingency Account
- \$7 million for a new Energy Audit Subsidy Program that provides energy audits to residential customers at a cost of \$75
- \$2 million for a weatherization program for individuals who qualify for state heating assistance

How to Apply

Individuals can call the state's 2-1-1 hotline to receive information on who is eligible for various federal and state energy assistance programs and how to apply.

Rep. Alberts serves the 50th Assembly District of Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Pomfret and Woodstock in the state House of Representatives.