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LIHEAP Funding Approved by Illinois General Assembly, Governor

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Bruce Rauner has signed legislation approving the release of nearly $2 billion in funds owed to local governing bodies that includes funding for the Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Following approval in the House and Senate, the measure will provide $165 million in LIHEAP funding assistance this winter to thousands of Illinois residents to help them pay to heat their homes.

Designed to assist eligible low income households pay for winter energy services, LIHEAP provides a one-time benefit to eligible households to be used for energy bills. The amount of payment is determined by income, household size, fuel type, and geographic location.

The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the state of Illinois, and administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Program assistance is provided by local community action agencies or not-for-profit agencies throughout the state. You may contact the agency provider in your area by clicking here.

The bill is SB2039. For complete details, go to www.ilga.gov.

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The Illinois Commerce Commission’s mission is to pursue an appropriate balance between the interests of consumers and existing and emerging service providers to ensure the provision of adequate, efficient, reliable, safe and least-cost public utility services. The Commission pursues this mission through three bureaus: The Bureau of External Affairs, which provides educational information on utility issues for consumers, governmental entities and communities and through its Consumer Services Division, resolves customer/utility disputes and develops rules on utility service and consumer protection; the Public Utilities Bureau, which focuses on financial and operational analysis, policy development, public safety and enforcement activities related to electric, natural gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies; and the Transportation Bureau, which includes
trucking insurance and registration, railroad safety, relocation towing, safety towing and household goods moving company enforcement activities. The ICC’s five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Illinois State Senate for five-year terms.