

# HB609 INTRODUCED



1 HB609  
2 V7ERGLP-1  
3 By Representatives Reynolds, Whitt, Crawford, Lomax, Hall,  
4 Underwood  
5 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund  
6 First Read: 11-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Department of Economic and Community Affairs is required to disburse monies from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund to eligible recipients for weatherization assistance. To qualify for assistance, a household income must be at or below 125 percent of the poverty level or meet other qualifications.

This bill would change the threshold for eligibility under the weatherization assistance program to households having an income level at or below 200 percent of the poverty level.

This bill would authorize the department to contract with certain nonprofit corporations to administer the weatherization assistance program in lieu of requiring that funds must be provided to designated community action agencies or county governments to administer the program.

This bill would also expand the source of monies that may be deposited into the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED



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AN ACT

Relating to weatherization assistance; to amend Sections 41-23-100 and 41-23-101, Code of Alabama 1975; to revise the threshold household income to qualify for weatherization assistance under the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund; to expand sources of monies that may be deposited in the fund; and to authorize the Department of Economic and Community Affairs to contract with certain nonprofit corporations to implement the weatherization assistance program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 41-23-100 and 41-23-101, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§41-23-100

(a) The Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund is established in the State Treasury to provide eligible recipients weatherization assistance.

(b) The monies in the fund shall consist of any of the following:

(1) Contributions from taxpayers received by the Department of Revenue and transferred to the fund.

(2) Appropriations ~~from~~ made by and at the discretion of the Legislature.

(3) Other revenue sources made by and at the discretion of the Legislature.

~~(3) (4) Donations from private sources~~ Proceeds from any gifts, grants, or contributions.



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57 ~~(4)~~ (5) Interest earned on principal remaining in the  
58 fund.

59 (6) Any other lawful sources.

60 (c) The monies in the fund shall not revert to the  
61 General Fund at the end of the fiscal year."

62 "§41-23-101

63 (a) Eligible recipients of assistance are individuals  
64 who have a household income at or below ~~125~~ 200 percent of the  
65 poverty level or individuals who are 60 years of age or older  
66 or handicapped and families with children under 18 years of  
67 age as determined by the United States Office of Management  
68 and Budget and reported in the federal register.

69 (b) ~~Beginning July 1, 1996, the~~ The Director of the  
70 Department of Economic and Community Affairs ~~shall provide~~  
71 ~~assistance funds to designated community action agencies and~~  
72 ~~county governments currently providing~~ may contract with  
73 statewide resiliency organizations to provide energy  
74 assistance to ~~people~~ individuals who are eligible to receive  
75 assistance under this article. ~~Disbursement of assistance~~  
76 ~~funds shall be coordinated with all other state and federal~~  
77 ~~home weatherization assistance programs administered by the~~  
78 ~~Department of Economic and Community Affairs.~~

79 (c) An amount of not more than 10 percent of the fund  
80 monies may be used for administrative costs in providing  
81 services specified under this article.

82 (d) On or before October 15 of each year, the director  
83 shall submit a report to the appropriate legislative  
84 committees. The report shall include a summary of the total



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85 monies collected and distributed under this article and ~~such~~  
86 other information as the legislative committees may request.

87 (e) For purposes of this section, "statewide resiliency  
88 organization" means an organization in the state that:

89 (1) Is exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. §  
90 501(c) (3);

91 (2) Is charged with improving the resiliency, energy  
92 efficiency, and safety of the state's residential housing  
93 stock for low and moderate income communities.

94 (3) Has adopted a conflict of interest policy  
95 consistent with the sample policy provided by the Internal  
96 Revenue Service and requires its directors to serve without  
97 compensation;

98 (4) Participates in large-scale residential energy  
99 efficiency programs within the state; and

100 (5) Possesses the capacity to leverage private,  
101 federal, and state funds to maximize the impact of the  
102 assistance provided under this section."

103 Section 2. This act shall become effective on June 1,  
104 2026.