

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H.R. 4264

To amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to encourage summer fill and fuel budgeting programs for propane, kerosene, and heating oil.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2000

Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. HOLDEN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to encourage summer fill and fuel budgeting programs for propane, kerosene, and heating oil.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Summer Fill and Fuel
5 Budgeting Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUMMER FILL AND FUEL BUDGETING PROGRAMS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part C of title II of the Energy
8 Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6211 et seq.) is
9 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 273. SUMMER FILL AND FUEL BUDGETING PRO-**
2 **GRAMS.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) BUDGET CONTRACT.—The term ‘budget
5 contract’ means a contract between a retailer and a
6 consumer under which the heating expenses of the
7 consumer are spread evenly over a period of months.

8 “(2) FIXED-PRICE CONTRACT.—The term
9 ‘fixed-price contract’ means a contract between a re-
10 tailer and a consumer under which the retailer
11 charges the consumer a set price for propane, ker-
12 osene, or heating oil without regard to market price
13 fluctuations.

14 “(3) PRICE CAP CONTRACT.—The term ‘price
15 cap contract’ means a contract between a retailer
16 and a consumer under which the retailer charges the
17 consumer the market price for propane, kerosene, or
18 heating oil, but the cost of the propane, kerosene, or
19 heating oil may not exceed a maximum amount stat-
20 ed in the contract.

21 “(b) ASSISTANCE.— At the request of the chief execu-
22 tive officer of a State, the Secretary shall provide infor-
23 mation, technical assistance, and funding—

24 “(1) to develop education and outreach pro-
25 grams to encourage consumers to fill their storage

1 facilities for propane, kerosene, and heating oil dur-
2 ing the summer months; and

3 “(2) to promote the use of budget contracts,
4 price cap contracts, fixed-price contracts, and other
5 advantageous financial arrangements;

6 to avoid severe seasonal price increases for and supply
7 shortages of those products.

8 “(c) PREFERENCE.—In implementing this section,
9 the Secretary shall give preference to States that con-
10 tribute public funds or leverage private funds to develop
11 State summer fill and fuel budgeting programs.

12 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this
14 section—

15 “(1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2001; and

16 “(2) such sums as are necessary for each fiscal
17 year thereafter.

18 “(e) INAPPLICABILITY OF EXPIRATION PROVISION.—
19 Section 281 does not apply to this section.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
21 tents in the first section of the Energy Policy and Con-
22 servation Act (42 U.S.C. prec. 6201) is amended by in-
23 serting after the item relating to section 272 the following:

“Sec. 273. Summer fill and fuel budgeting programs.”.

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