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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**EIGHTY-FIFTH
SESSION**

HOUSE FILE No. 3529

February 28, 2008

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Energy Finance and Policy Division

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to energy; providing cold weather protection for certain delivered fuel
1.3 residential heating customers; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.4 Statutes, chapter 216B.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **[216B.099] COLD WEATHER PROTECTION FOR CONSUMERS OF**
1.7 **DELIVERED FUELS.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section:

1.9 (1) "customer" means a residential customer with a household income at or below 50
1.10 percent of the statewide median income who is heating a residence with heating fuels;

1.11 (2) "heating fuels" means (i) liquid propane gas, (ii) number one fuel oil, and (iii)
1.12 number two fuel oil;

1.13 (3) "vendor" means a dealer or distributor of heating fuels; and

1.14 (4) "cold weather period" means the period from October 15 through April 15.

1.15 Subd. 2. **Cold weather protection.** (a) During the cold weather period, each vendor
1.16 shall offer a monthly payment agreement for customers unable to pay for the full cost of
1.17 delivery for heating fuels. Any past-due bills prior to October 15 must be included in a
1.18 payment agreement. A vendor may not require a customer to pay more than ten percent
1.19 of the customer's monthly income. Payment agreements must consider the customer's
1.20 financial circumstances.

1.21 (b) During the cold weather period, a vendor shall continue to deliver to customers
1.22 who are current on a payment agreement. A customer is considered current unless the
1.23 customer fails to pay two consecutive monthly payments under the agreement. A vendor
1.24 making delivery to a customer with a current payment agreement may not charge the

- 2.1 customer any additional costs or fees that would not be charged to any other customer
- 2.2 and must make available to that customer any discount program on the same basis as the
- 2.3 vendor makes available to any other customer.