Amend the Finance Committee Report, dated March 29, 2021, page 1, strike lines 6 through 20 and substitute "established - definitions - repeal. (1) (a) On and after October 1, 2023, the state department shall implement a program to make fuel assistance payments by crediting the fuel assistance payments to recipients' electronic benefits transfer service cards.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (1)(c) and (1)(d) of this section:

(I) The state department shall make the fuel assistance payments to eligible households that receive SNAP benefits but that are not eligible for assistance under LEAP in order to qualify those households for the standard utility allowance to maximize their SNAP benefits;

(II) To help the state department maximize the number of households that are receiving both the SNAP and LEAP benefits and facilitate the identification of those households that receive SNAP benefits and qualify for the fuel assistance payments, the state department shall develop a database connection between the LEAP eligibility system and the Colorado benefits management system;

(III) The state department may seek, accept, and expend outside funds to finance its work to develop the database connection. The state department shall transmit any outside funds received pursuant to this subsection (1)(b)(III) to the state treasurer who shall credit the outside funds to the fund.

(IV) The state department shall use outside funds received to process the EBT card payments and for other administrative costs incurred in implementing the program. If insufficient funds are available to cover the administrative costs, the state department shall request that the organization allocate, as part of its budget prepared pursuant to section 40-8.7-108 (3), money to the state department from the energy assistance system benefit charge collected pursuant to section 40-8.7-104 (2.5) for this purpose.

(V) On or before July 1, 2023, and on or before July 1 of each year thereafter, the state department shall submit a budget to the organization and the commission to include the state department's administrative costs to implement the program and the projected number of eligible households that the state department identifies as receiving SNAP benefits but that are not eligible for assistance under LEAP including an
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF NEW SNAP CASES THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL APPROVE DURING THE UPCOMING FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR. BASED ON THE BUDGET THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SUBMITS, THE ORGANIZATION SHALL CALCULATE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY FROM THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM BENEFIT CHARGE COLLECTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-8.7-104 (2.5) THAT IT ALLOCATES AS PART OF ITS BUDGET PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-8.7-108 (3) FOR USE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE FUEL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS AND TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

(c) If, by January 1, 2022, the state department does not receive outside funds pursuant to subsection (1)(b)(III) of this section or does not receive sufficient outside funds to develop the database connection, the state department shall notify the joint technology committee created in section 2-3-1702 that outside funds were not received or that insufficient outside funds were received.

(d) If insufficient outside funds to develop the database connection are received by January 1, 2022, the state department need not commence work on developing the database connection pursuant to subsection (1)(b)(II) of this section, but shall:

(I) make the fuel assistance payments to all households that receive SNAP benefits;

(II) use any outside funds received to help cover its costs to process the EBT card payments; and

(III) on or before July 1, 2023, and on or before July 1 of each year thereafter, submit a budget to the organization and the commission to include the state department’s anticipated administrative costs to implement the program and the projected number of households that the state department identifies as receiving SNAP benefits, including an estimated number of new SNAP cases that the state department will approve during the upcoming federal fiscal year. Based on the budget that the state department submits, the organization shall calculate the amount of money from the energy assistance system benefit charge collected pursuant to section 40-8.7-104 (2.5) that it allocates as part of its budget prepared pursuant to section 40-8.7-108 (3) for use by the state department:

(A) to make fuel assistance payments; and

(B) unless the state department received sufficient outside funds to cover all of its administrative costs for implementing the program, to cover its costs to process the EBT cards.
CARD PAYMENTS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

(e) If, after January 1, 2022, the State Department receives sufficient outside funds for the purpose of developing the database connection, the State Department shall, as soon as practicable, develop the database connection and transition to implementing the program in accordance with subsection (1)(b) of this section."

Page 2 of the report, strike lines 14 through 18 and substitute:

"(b) "Electronic Benefits Transfer Service" or "EBT" means the service that the State Department implements pursuant to section 26-2-104 (2) to administer the delivery of public assistance payments and food stamps to recipients.

(c) "Fuel Assistance Payment" means an annual payment that, when made to an eligible household identified pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, makes that household eligible to receive the standard utility allowance.

(d) "LEAP" means the low-income energy assistance program specified in section 26-2-122.5.".

Reletter succeeding paragraph accordingly.

Page 2 of the report, strike line 20 and substitute:

"40-8.7-103 (4).

(f) "Outside funds" means:

(I) Federal funds; or

(II) Gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources.

(g) "Program" means the fuel assistance payment program implemented under subsection (1)(a) of this section.

(h) "SNAP" means the supplemental nutrition assistance program established pursuant to this part 3.

(i) "Standard utility allowance" means the heating and cooling standard utility allowance authorized in the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program regulations promulgated by the Food and Nutrition Service in the United States Department of Agriculture.".".

Page 2 of the report, strike line 36.
"Page 3 of the report, strike line 1 and 2 and substitute:

"Page 4 of the printed bill, strike lines 5 through 7 and substitute:

"40-8.5-103.5 Commission created - duties - repeal."

(1) (a) (I) There is created the legislative commission on low-income energy and water assistance.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(a) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2022.

(b) COMMENCING MAY 1, 2022, THERE IS CREATED THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON LOW-INCOME ENERGY AND WATER ASSISTANCE IN THE COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE. THE COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE SHALL STAFF THE COMMISSION AS NEEDED.".".

Page 4 of the report, line 23, strike ""rules - repeal."." and substitute ""repeal.".".

Page 5 of the report, strike lines 16 through 18 and substitute:"(2) EACH INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITY SHALL USE THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM.".".

Page 6 of the report, strike lines 15 through 20 and substitute:

"Page 14 of the bill, strike line 4 and substitute:

"(3) (a) (I) SUBJECT TO THE ALLOCATION REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (3)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION, the organization shall, on an annual basis, develop a budget".

Page 14 of the bill, line 9, after the period insert "TO IMPROVE AND INCREASE ENROLLMENT IN THE UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, THE BUDGET MUST INCLUDE AN ALLOCATION OF AT LEAST TWO PERCENT OF THE MONEY COLLECTED FROM THE CHARGE TO BE USED TO ENGAGE THE ASSISTANCE OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE ACTIVE IN OUTREACH TO, ENGAGEMENT OF, AND EDUCATION FOR, INCOME-QUALIFIED COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, AND IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES TO HELP PROVIDE OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.".

Page 14 of the bill, after line 11 insert:

"(II) ONCE THE ORGANIZATION BEGINS ALLOCATING AN AMOUNT OF THE MONEY COLLECTED FROM THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM
BENEFIT CHARGE TO BE CREDITED TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL UTILITY ASSISTANCE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 26-2-307 (2)(a), THE ORGANIZATION SHALL ALLOCATE FROM THE REMAINING AMOUNT OF THE MONEY COLLECTED FROM THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM BENEFIT CHARGE:

(A) NOT MORE THAN FIFTY PERCENT TO DIRECT UTILITY BILL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE; AND

(B) AT LEAST TWO PERCENT TO BE USED TO ENGAGE THE ASSISTANCE OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE ACTIVE IN OUTREACH TO, ENGAGEMENT OF, AND EDUCATION FOR, INCOME-QUALIFIED COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, AND IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES TO HELP PROVIDE OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(b) AS PART OF THE BUDGET DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO".".

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