

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2096

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
State & Local Government, March 28, 2001

**Title:** An act relating to assistance for low-income residential utility customers.

**Brief Description:** Authorizing water-sewer districts to engage in general fund-raising for programs for low-income customers.

**Sponsors:** By Representatives Dunshee, Mulliken, Santos and Schual-Berke.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** State & Local Government: 3/19/01, 3/28/01 [DPA, DNP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Patterson, Chair; Fairley, Vice Chair; Gardner, Hale, Kline and Swecker.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Horn and T. Sheldon.

**Staff:** Eugene Green (786-7405)

**Background:** Water-sewer districts may include with its billing statements a request for voluntary contributions to assist low-income customers in paying their bills. Funds must be used solely to supplement low-income residential customers in paying their bills. All funds must be deposited with either the local agency that administers the federally funded energy assistance program in the district, or with a charitable organization within the district.

**Summary of Amended Bill:** Water-sewer districts are authorized to engage in general fund raising activities, not involving gambling, to enhance contributions to programs that assist low-income utility customers in paying their district bills.

**Amended Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The striking amendment prohibits specified gambling activities in fund raising activities.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** We feel this will enhance our ability to help our low-income customers pay their utility bills.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Joe Daniels (for Mark Triplett), WA Assn. of Sewer/Water Districts.