

ASSEMBLY BILL 1

February 16, 2006 – Introduced by JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, by request of Governor Jim Doyle. Referred to Joint Committee on Finance.

1 AN ACT *to create* 20.505 (1) (qm) of the statutes; **relating to:** increasing
2 low-income energy assistance and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, using federal funds, the Department of Administration (department) administers a low-income energy assistance program. Eligible households receive payments to assist with the cost of home energy. Currently, payments are calculated using a benefit schedule created by the department that takes into account household income, family size, and energy costs. Current law specifies which households are eligible for low-income energy assistance, including households with an annual income that is not more than 150 percent of the federal poverty line.

Under this bill, in fiscal year 2005–06, a household with an annual income that is not more than 206.7 percent of the federal poverty line is eligible to receive low-income energy assistance. The bill provides \$6,000,000 in fiscal year 2005–06 from the petroleum inspection fund for payments to households that qualify under the one-time expansion of eligibility.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

