



## **National Fuel Funds Network**

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### **The Energy Policy Act of 2005 and LIHEAP**

Fact Sheet – August 2005

President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 on August 8, 2005. The legislation addresses the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in several ways.

#### The Energy Policy Act:

1. Reauthorizes LIHEAP through FY 2007 and increases the funding authorization for the program from \$2 billion to \$5.1 billion annually. Note: Authorization is an upper limit for federal spending. Congress still needs to appropriate funds for each fiscal year.
2. Allows a state to use LIHEAP to purchase renewable fuels, including biomass.
3. Authorizes the Secretary of Interior to develop a program to use oil and gas royalties in-kind to provide additional resources for energy assistance to supplement, not supplant LIHEAP.
4. Requires the following reports:
  - The Secretary of Energy shall report to the Congress on the use of renewable fuels in providing LIHEAP assistance
  - The Secretary of HHS shall report to the Congress within a year on how LIHEAP could be used more effectively to prevent loss of life from extreme temperature. HHS shall consult with the states on this issue in the preparation of the report.
  - The Secretary of Interior shall report to Congress after three years to assess the effectiveness of the royalties in-kind program.