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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 15, 2015

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging Congress to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and to allocate such funds to states in accordance with the program's enabling legislation

Resolution No. R-1160-15

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.

Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/cp

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(Revised)

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and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Please note any items checked.

_____ **"3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised**

_____ **6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**

_____ **4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**

_____ **Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**

_____ **Budget required**

_____ **Statement of fiscal impact required**

_____ **Statement of social equity required**

_____ **Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing**

✓ **No committee review**

_____ **Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous _____) to approve**

_____ **Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)
12-15-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-1160-15

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND TO ALLOCATE SUCH FUNDS TO STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROGRAM'S ENABLING LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, low-income families spend about three times more of their income on basic energy services than middle-income families; and

WHEREAS, additionally, homes in low-income and economically disadvantaged communities severely lack the energy efficiency features that enable lower energy bills; and

WHEREAS, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides federally funded assistance to low-income families in managing the costs associated with home energy bills (heating and cooling), energy crises, weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs; and

WHEREAS, many low-income families, including working poor households, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and veterans, rely on LIHEAP to pay high heating and/or cooling bills each year; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP has been an effective and successful program in meeting the basic energy needs of low-income families throughout the United States and the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, nevertheless, despite a growing need for the program, federal funding for LIHEAP has declined from $5.1 billion in 2010 to $3.4 billion in 2015; and

WHEREAS, if federal funding for LIHEAP continues to decline, many low-income families may be forced to cut back on other household necessities such as food, medicine, and clothing; and

WHEREAS, additionally, since 2009, federal appropriations bills have declined to follow the statutory formula in LIHEAP's enabling legislation for allocating LIHEAP funds to states, with the vast majority of funding being allocated based on historical allocation levels and a much smaller amount based on dynamic factors such as the number of low-income households and the average home heating and cooling costs per state; and

WHEREAS, as a result, many warm weather and higher poverty states such as Florida have seen their share of LIHEAP funding decrease more than that of other states; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congressional Research Service recently estimated that even if Congress appropriates the same total funding for LIHEAP in 2016 as in 2015, if Congress allocates such funds to states in accordance with LIHEAP's enabling legislation, Florida will gain an additional $38.5 million in LIHEAP funding in 2016, a 55 percent increase from 2015; and

WHEREAS, more than 2 million Florida households qualified for LIHEAP funding in 2014, yet only 7 percent of these eligible households actually received assistance due to a lack of LIHEAP funds; and

WHEREAS, with warm-weather averages reaching an all-time high in July 2015, and with Florida's poverty rate increasing from 12.1 percent in 2007 to 16.5 percent in 2014, Florida's need for increased LIHEAP funding is more critical than ever; and

WHEREAS, this Board recognizes that basic energy services are vital to the health, safety and well-being of Florida households and families, and urges Congress to increase funding for LIHEAP in 2016 and to allocate such funds to states in accordance with the program's enabling legislation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges Congress to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Section 2. Urges Congress to allocate all Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds to states in accordance with the program's enabling legislation.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Florida Congressional Delegation and the United States Secretary of Health & Human Services.

Section 4. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the actions set forth in Sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2016 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. It was offered by Commissioner **Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jean Monestime, Chairman	**aye**		
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman	**aye**		
Bruno A. Barreiro	**aye**	Daniella Levine Cava	**aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**aye**	Audrey M. Edmonson	**absent**
Sally A. Heyman	**absent**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Dennis C. Moss	**absent**	Rebeca Sosa	**absent**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**	Xavier L. Suarez	**aye**
Juan C. Zapata	**absent**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 2015. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of: (i) ten (10) days after the date of adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, only upon override by this Board; or (ii) approval by the Mayor of the Board resolution and the filing of the approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: Christopher Agrippa
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency. MJM

Michael J. Mastrucci