



Tucson, Arizona Tuesday, 29 April 2003

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

Cut utility bills

PHOENIX - Arizona lawmakers have ordered the financially strapped state government to do what financially strapped families do: cut the utility bills.

Legislation signed into law Monday by Gov. Janet Napolitano requires buildings owned by the state, including the university system, to reduce energy use by at least 10 percent by July 1, 2008. That saving has to increase to 15 percent three years later.

The measure, HB 2324, also mandates that any new state buildings be constructed under energy-efficient standards being developed by the state Department of Commerce.

And to ensure that the savings go beyond heating, air conditioning and lighting, the legislation also requires that state agencies buy only products certified by the federal government as "Energy Star," designed to use less electricity.