

KS to loan up to \$100M to cities with huge energy costs

**TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas legislators have quickly created a low-interest loan program for cities to help them cover a spike in costs associated with providing heat and electricity to residents during last month's intense cold snap.**

**The state Senate approved, 37-1, on Wednesday to allow the state to loan out \$100 million of its idle funds immediately to cities that have community owned electric and natural gas utilities. Its vote came hours after the House passed the measure, 124-0.**

**Governor Kelly signed the bill Wednesday evening.**

**Subzero temperatures led to a big spike in demand for natural gas, and other problems, such as freezing equipment, made gas hard to obtain, causing prices to jump.**

**The city of Denison, with about 190 residents, was billed about \$241,000 for gas in February, when its bill last year was about \$4,100. City Clerk Yvonne Hamer, in written testimony, said without help, the city would "go under" after 134 years.**

Associated Press