

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To reauthorize the weatherization and State energy programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. COONS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To reauthorize the weatherization and State energy programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Weatherization Enhancement, and Local Energy Effi-
6 ciency Investment and Accountability Act”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.

TITLE I—WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2

Sec. 101. Reauthorization of weatherization assistance program.

Sec. 102. Grants for new, self-sustaining low-income, single-family and multi-family housing energy retrofit model programs to eligible multistate housing and energy nonprofit organizations.

Sec. 103. Standards program.

TITLE II—STATE ENERGY PROGRAMS

Sec. 201. Reauthorization of State energy programs.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) the State energy program established under
4 part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Con-
5 servation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.) (referred to
6 in this section as “SEP”) and the Weatherization
7 Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons estab-
8 lished under part A of title IV of the Energy Con-
9 servation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861 et
10 seq.) (referred to in this section as “WAP”) have
11 proven to be beneficial, long-term partnerships
12 among Federal, State, and local partners;

13 (2) the SEP and the WAP have been reauthor-
14 ized on a bipartisan basis over many years to ad-
15 dress changing national, regional, and State cir-
16 cumstances and needs, especially through—

17 (A) the Energy Policy and Conservation
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.);

19 (B) the Energy Conservation and Produc-
20 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.);

1 (C) the State Energy Efficiency Programs
2 Improvement Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–
3 440; 104 Stat. 1006);

4 (D) the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42
5 U.S.C. 13201 et seq.);

6 (E) the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42
7 U.S.C. 15801 et seq.); and

8 (F) the Energy Independence and Security
9 Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17001 et seq.);

10 (3) the SEP, also known as the “State energy
11 conservation program”—

12 (A) was first created in 1975 to implement
13 a State-based, national program in support of
14 energy efficiency, renewable energy, economic
15 development, energy emergency preparedness,
16 and energy policy; and

17 (B) has come to operate in every sector of
18 the economy in support of the private sector to
19 improve productivity and has dramatically re-
20 duced the cost of government through energy
21 savings at the State and local levels;

22 (4) Federal laboratory studies have concluded
23 that, for every Federal dollar invested through the
24 SEP, more than \$7 is saved in energy costs and al-
25 most \$11 in non-Federal funds is leveraged;

1 (5) the WAP—

2 (A) was first created in 1976 to assist low-
3 income families in response to the first oil em-
4 bargo;

5 (B) has become the largest residential en-
6 ergy conservation program in the United
7 States, with more than 7,100,000 homes weath-
8 erized since the WAP was created;

9 (C) saves an estimated 35 percent of con-
10 sumption in the typical weatherized home, yield-
11 ing average annual savings of \$437 per year in
12 home energy costs;

13 (D) has created thousands of jobs in both
14 the construction sector and in the supply chain
15 of materials suppliers, vendors, and manufac-
16 turers who supply the WAP;

17 (E) returns \$2.51 in energy savings for
18 every Federal dollar spent in energy and non-
19 energy benefits over the life of weatherized
20 homes;

21 (F) serves as a foundation for residential
22 energy efficiency retrofit standards, technical
23 skills, and workforce training for the emerging
24 broader market and reduces residential and

1 power plant emissions of carbon dioxide by 2.65
2 metric tons each year per home; and

3 (G) has decreased national energy con-
4 sumption by the equivalent of 24,100,000 bar-
5 rels of oil annually;

6 (6) the WAP can be enhanced with the addition
7 of a targeted portion of Federal funds through an
8 innovative program that supports projects performed
9 by qualified nonprofit organizations that have a
10 demonstrated capacity to build, renovate, repair, or
11 improve the energy efficiency of a significant num-
12 ber of low-income homes;

13 (7) the WAP has increased energy efficiency
14 opportunities by promoting new, competitive public-
15 private sector models of retrofitting low-income
16 homes through new Federal partnerships;

17 (8) improved monitoring and reporting of the
18 work product of the WAP has yielded benefits, and
19 expanding independent verification of efficiency work
20 will support the long-term goals of the WAP;

21 (9) reports of the Government Accountability
22 Office in 2011, Inspector General of the Department
23 of Energy, and State auditors have identified State-
24 level deficiencies in monitoring efforts that can be

1 addressed in a manner that will ensure that WAP
2 funds are used more effectively;

3 (10) through the history of the WAP, the WAP
4 has evolved with improvements in efficiency tech-
5 nology, including, in the 1990s, many States adopt-
6 ing advanced home energy audits, which has led to
7 great returns on investment; and

8 (11) as the home energy efficiency industry has
9 become more performance-based, the WAP should
10 continue to use those advances in technology and the
11 professional workforce.

12 **TITLE I—WEATHERIZATION**
13 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

14 **SEC. 101. REAUTHORIZATION OF WEATHERIZATION ASSIST-**
15 **ANCE PROGRAM.**

16 Section 422 of the Energy Conservation and Produc-
17 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 6872) is amended by striking “appro-
18 priated—” and all that follows through the period at the
19 end and inserting “appropriated \$450,000,000 for each
20 of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.”.

1 **SEC. 102. GRANTS FOR NEW, SELF-SUSTAINING LOW-IN-**
2 **COME, SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY**
3 **HOUSING ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL PRO-**
4 **GRAMS TO ELIGIBLE HOUSING AND NON-**
5 **PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**

6 The Energy Conservation and Production Act is
7 amended by inserting after section 414B (42 U.S.C.
8 6864b) the following:

9 **“SEC. 414C. GRANTS FOR NEW, SELF-SUSTAINING LOW-IN-**
10 **COME, SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY**
11 **HOUSING ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL PRO-**
12 **GRAMS TO ELIGIBLE HOUSING AND NON-**
13 **PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**

14 “(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

15 “(1) to expand the number of low-income, sin-
16 gle-family and multifamily homes that receive energy
17 efficiency retrofits;

18 “(2) to promote innovation and new models of
19 retrofitting low-income homes through new Federal
20 partnerships with covered organizations that lever-
21 age substantial donations, donated materials, volun-
22 teer labor, homeowner labor equity, and other pri-
23 vate sector resources;

24 “(3) to assist the covered organizations in dem-
25 onstrating, evaluating, improving, and replicating

1 widely the model low-income energy retrofit pro-
2 grams of the covered organizations; and

3 “(4) to ensure that the covered organizations
4 make the energy retrofit programs of the covered or-
5 ganizations self-sustaining by the time grant funds
6 have been expended.

7 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) COVERED ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘cov-
9 ered organization’ means an organization that—

10 “(A) is described in section 501(c)(3) of
11 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt
12 from taxation under 501(a) of that Code; and

13 “(B) has an established record of con-
14 structing, renovating, repairing, or making en-
15 ergy efficient an aggregate quantity of not less
16 than 250 owner-occupied, single-family or mul-
17 tifamily homes for low-income households, ei-
18 ther directly or through affiliates, chapters, or
19 other direct partners (using the most recent
20 year for which data are available).

21 “(2) LOW-INCOME.—The term ‘low-income’
22 means an income level that is not more than 200
23 percent of the poverty level (as determined in ac-
24 cordance with criteria established by the Director of
25 the Office of Management and Budget) applicable to

1 a family of the size involved, except that the Sec-
2 retary may establish a higher or lower level if the
3 Secretary determines that a higher or lower level is
4 necessary to carry out this section.

5 “(3) WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
6 FOR LOW-INCOME PERSONS.—The term ‘Weatheriza-
7 tion Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons’
8 means the program established under this part (in-
9 cluding part 440 of title 10, Code of Federal Regu-
10 lations).

11 “(c) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—The Sec-
12 retary shall make grants to covered organizations through
13 a national competitive process for use in accordance with
14 this section.

15 “(d) AWARD FACTORS.—In making grants under this
16 section, the Secretary shall consider—

17 “(1) the number of low-income homes the appli-
18 cant—

19 “(A) has built, renovated, repaired, or
20 made more energy efficient as of the date of the
21 application; and

22 “(B) can reasonably be projected to build,
23 renovate, repair, or make energy efficient dur-
24 ing the grant period beginning on the date of
25 the application;

1 “(2) the qualifications, experience, and past
2 performance of the applicant, including experience
3 successfully managing and administering Federal
4 funds;

5 “(3) the number and diversity of States and cli-
6 mates in which the applicant works as of the date
7 of the application;

8 “(4) the amount of non-Federal funds, donated
9 or discounted materials, discounted or volunteer
10 skilled labor, volunteer unskilled labor, homeowner
11 labor equity, and other resources the applicant will
12 provide;

13 “(5) the extent to which the applicant could
14 successfully replicate the energy retrofit program of
15 the applicant and sustain the program after the
16 grant funds have been expended;

17 “(6) regional diversity;

18 “(7) urban, suburban, and rural localities; and

19 “(8) such other factors as the Secretary deter-
20 mines to be appropriate.

21 “(e) APPLICATIONS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
23 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
24 retary shall request proposals from covered organiza-
25 tions.

1 “(2) ADMINISTRATION.—To be eligible to re-
2 ceive a grant under this section, an applicant shall
3 submit to the Secretary an application at such time,
4 in such manner, and containing such information as
5 the Secretary may require.

6 “(3) AWARDS.—Not later than 90 days after
7 the date of issuance of a request for proposals, the
8 Secretary shall award grants under this section.

9 “(f) ELIGIBLE USES OF GRANT FUNDS.—A grant
10 under this section may be used for—

11 “(1) energy efficiency audits, cost-effective ret-
12 rofit, and related activities in different climatic re-
13 gions of the United States;

14 “(2) energy efficiency materials and supplies;

15 “(3) organizational capacity—

16 “(A) to significantly increase the number
17 of energy retrofits;

18 “(B) to replicate an energy retrofit pro-
19 gram within a State or in other States; and

20 “(C) to ensure that the program is self-
21 sustaining after the Federal grant funds are ex-
22 pended;

23 “(4) energy efficiency, audit and retrofit train-
24 ing, and ongoing technical assistance;

1 “(5) information to homeowners on proper
2 maintenance and energy savings behaviors;

3 “(6) quality control and improvement;

4 “(7) data collection, measurement, and
5 verification;

6 “(8) program monitoring, oversight, evaluation,
7 and reporting;

8 “(9) management and administration (up to a
9 maximum of 10 percent of the total grant);

10 “(10) labor and training activities; and

11 “(11) such other activities as the Secretary de-
12 termines to be appropriate.

13 “(g) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant
14 provided under this section shall not exceed \$5,000,000.

15 “(h) GUIDELINES.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
17 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
18 retary shall issue guidelines to implement the grant
19 program established under this section.

20 “(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The guidelines—

21 “(A) shall not apply to the Weatherization
22 Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons,
23 in whole or major part; but

24 “(B) may rely on applicable provisions of
25 law governing the Weatherization Assistance

1 Program for Low-Income Persons to estab-
2 lish—
3 “(i) standards for allowable expendi-
4 tures;
5 “(ii) a minimum savings-to-investment
6 ratio;
7 “(iii) standards—
8 “(I) to carry out training pro-
9 grams;
10 “(II) to conduct energy audits
11 and program activities;
12 “(III) to provide technical assist-
13 ance;
14 “(IV) to monitor program activi-
15 ties; and
16 “(V) to verify energy and cost
17 savings;
18 “(iv) liability insurance requirements;
19 and
20 “(v) recordkeeping requirements,
21 which shall include reporting to the Office
22 of Weatherization and Intergovernmental
23 Programs of the Department of Energy
24 applicable data on each home retrofitted.

1 “(i) REVIEW AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall
2 review and evaluate the performance of any covered orga-
3 nization that receives a grant under this section (which
4 may include an audit), as determined by the Secretary.

5 “(j) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW.—
6 Nothing in this section or any program carried out using
7 a grant provided under this section supersedes or other-
8 wise affects any State or local law, to the extent that the
9 State or local law contains a requirement that is more
10 stringent than the applicable requirement of this section.

11 “(k) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit
12 to Congress annual reports that provide—

13 “(1) findings;

14 “(2) a description of energy and cost savings
15 achieved and actions taken under this section; and

16 “(3) any recommendations for further action.

17 “(l) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-
18 priated to carry out this section \$45,000,000 for each of
19 fiscal years 2014 through 2018.”.

20 **SEC. 103. STANDARDS PROGRAM.**

21 Section 415 of the Energy Conservation and Produc-
22 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 6865) is amended by adding at the
23 end the following:

24 “(f) STANDARDS PROGRAM.—

1 “(1) CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATION.—Effective
2 beginning January 1, 2015, to be eligible to carry
3 out weatherization using funds made available under
4 this part, a contractor shall be selected through a
5 competitive bidding process and be—

6 “(A) accredited by the Building Perform-
7 ance Institute;

8 “(B) an Energy Smart Home Performance
9 Team accredited under the Residential Energy
10 Services Network; or

11 “(C) accredited by an equivalent accredita-
12 tion or program accreditation-based State cer-
13 tification program approved by the Secretary.

14 “(2) GRANTS FOR ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL
15 PROGRAMS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
17 ceive a grant under section 414C, a covered or-
18 ganization (as defined in section 414C(b)) shall
19 use a crew chief who—

20 “(i) is certified or accredited in ac-
21 cordance with paragraph (1); and

22 “(ii) supervises the work performed
23 with grant funds.

24 “(B) VOLUNTEER LABOR.—A volunteer
25 who performs work for a covered organization

1 that receives a grant under section 414C shall
2 not be required to be certified under this sub-
3 section if the volunteer is not directly installing
4 or repairing mechanical equipment or other
5 items that require skilled labor.

6 “(C) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall use
7 training and technical assistance funds available
8 to the Secretary to assist covered organizations
9 under section 414C in providing training to ob-
10 tain certification required under this subsection,
11 including provisional or temporary certification.

12 “(3) MINIMUM EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.—Ef-
13 fective beginning October 1, 2015, the Secretary
14 shall ensure that—

15 “(A) each retrofit for which weatherization
16 assistance is provided under this part meets
17 minimum efficiency and quality of work stand-
18 ards established by the Secretary after weather-
19 ization of a dwelling unit;

20 “(B) at least 10 percent of the dwelling
21 units are randomly inspected by a third party
22 accredited under this subsection to ensure com-
23 pliance with the minimum efficiency and quality
24 of work standards established under subpara-
25 graph (A); and

1 “(C) the standards established under this
2 subsection meet or exceed the industry stand-
3 ards for home performance work that are in ef-
4 fect on the date of enactment of this subsection,
5 as determined by the Secretary.”.

6 **TITLE II—STATE ENERGY** 7 **PROGRAMS**

8 **SEC. 201. REAUTHORIZATION OF STATE ENERGY PRO-** 9 **GRAMS.**

10 Section 365(f) of the Energy Policy and Conservation
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 6325(f)) is amended by striking
12 “\$125,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through
13 2012” and inserting “\$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years
14 2014 through 2018”.