

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1273

To promote energy savings in residential and commercial buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2015

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. SCHRADER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To promote energy savings in residential and commercial buildings and industry, 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 “Energy Savings and Building Efficiency Act of 2015”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

TITLE I—BUILDINGS

Subtitle A—Building Energy Codes

- Sec. 101. Greater energy efficiency in building codes.

Subtitle B—Worker Training and Capacity Building

Sec. 111. Building training and assessment centers.

TITLE II—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 201. Voluntary nature of building asset rating program.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.**

2 In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
3 retary of Energy.

4 **TITLE I—BUILDINGS**

5 **Subtitle A—Building Energy Codes**

6 **SEC. 101. GREATER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDING**
7 **CODES.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 303 of the Energy Con-
9 servation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6832) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) by striking paragraph (14) and inserting
12 the following:

13 “(14) MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODE.—The
14 term ‘model building energy code’ means a voluntary
15 building energy code or standard developed and up-
16 dated through a consensus process among interested
17 persons, such as the IECC or ASHRAE Standard
18 90.1 or the code used by other appropriate organiza-
19 tions.”; and

20 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(17) IECC.—The term ‘IECC’ means the
2 International Energy Conservation Code as pub-
3 lished by the International Code Council.

4 “(18) ASHRAE STANDARD 90.1.—The term
5 ‘ASHRAE Standard 90.1’ means the American So-
6 ciety of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning
7 Engineers ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90/1
8 Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise
9 Residential Buildings.

10 “(19) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’
11 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
12 Native American Housing Assistance and Self-De-
13 termination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

14 “(20) SIMPLE PAYBACK.—The term ‘simple
15 payback’ means the time in years that is required
16 for energy savings to exceed the incremental first
17 cost of a new requirement or code.

18 “(21) TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE.—The term
19 ‘technically feasible’ means capable of being
20 achieved, based on widely available appliances/equip-
21 ment, technologies, materials, and construction prac-
22 tices.”.

23 (b) STATE BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY
24 CODES.—Section 304 of the Energy Conservation and

1 Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6833) is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **“SEC. 304. UPDATING STATE BUILDING ENERGY EFFI-**
4 **CIENCY CODES.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide tech-
6 nical assistance, as described in subsection (f), for the pur-
7 poses of—

8 “(1) implementation of building energy codes
9 by States, Indian tribes, and, as appropriate, by
10 local governments that are technically feasible and
11 cost-effective; and

12 “(2) supporting full compliance with the State
13 and local codes.

14 “(b) STATE AND INDIAN TRIBE CERTIFICATION OF
15 BUILDING ENERGY CODE UPDATES.—

16 “(1) REVIEW AND UPDATING OF CODES BY
17 EACH STATE AND INDIAN TRIBE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
19 after the date on which a model building energy
20 code is published, each State or Indian tribe
21 shall certify whether or not the State or Indian
22 tribe, respectively, has reviewed and updated
23 the energy provisions of the building code of the
24 State or Indian tribe, respectively.

1 “(B) DEMONSTRATION.—The certification
2 shall include a statement of whether or not the
3 energy savings for the code provisions that are
4 in effect throughout the State or Indian tribal
5 territory meet or exceed—

6 “(i) the energy savings of the most re-
7 cently published model building energy
8 code; or

9 “(ii) the targets established under sec-
10 tion 307(b)(2).

11 “(C) NO MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODE
12 UPDATE.—If a model building energy code is
13 not updated by a target date established under
14 section 307(b)(2)(D), each State or Indian tribe
15 shall, not later than 3 years after the specified
16 date, certify whether or not the State or Indian
17 tribe, respectively, has reviewed and updated
18 the energy provisions of the building code of the
19 State or Indian tribe, respectively, to meet or
20 exceed the target in section 307(b)(2).

21 “(2) VALIDATION BY SECRETARY.—Not later
22 than 90 days after a State or Indian tribe certifi-
23 cation under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

1 “(A) determine whether the code provi-
2 sions of the State or Indian tribe, respectively,
3 meet the criteria specified in paragraph (1);

4 “(B) determine whether the certification
5 submitted by the State or Indian tribe, respec-
6 tively is complete; and

7 “(C) if the requirements of subparagraph
8 (B) are satisfied, validate the certification.

9 “(3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section
10 shall be interpreted to require a State or Indian
11 tribe to adopt any building code or provision within
12 a code.

13 “(c) IMPROVEMENTS IN COMPLIANCE WITH BUILD-
14 ING ENERGY CODES.—

15 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
17 after the date of a certification under sub-
18 section (b), each State and Indian tribe shall
19 certify whether or not the State and Indian
20 tribe, respectively, has—

21 “(i) achieved full compliance under
22 paragraph (3) with the applicable certified
23 State and Indian tribe building energy
24 code or with the associated model building
25 energy code; or

1 “(ii) made significant progress under
2 paragraph (4) toward achieving compliance
3 with the applicable certified State and In-
4 dian tribe building energy code or with the
5 associated model building energy code.

6 “(B) REPEAT CERTIFICATIONS.—If the
7 State or Indian tribe certifies progress toward
8 achieving compliance, the State or Indian tribe
9 shall repeat the certification until the State or
10 Indian tribe certifies that the State or Indian
11 tribe has achieved full compliance, respectively.

12 “(2) MEASUREMENT OF COMPLIANCE.—A cer-
13 tification under paragraph (1) shall include docu-
14 mentation of the rate of compliance based on—

15 “(A) inspections of a random sample of the
16 buildings covered by the code in the preceding
17 year; or

18 “(B) an alternative method that yields an
19 accurate measure of compliance.

20 “(3) ACHIEVEMENT OF COMPLIANCE.—A State
21 or Indian tribe shall be considered to achieve full
22 compliance under paragraph (1) if—

23 “(A) at least 90 percent of building space
24 covered by the code in the preceding year sub-
25 stantially meets all the requirements of the ap-

1 applicable code specified in paragraph (1), or
2 achieves equivalent or greater energy savings
3 level; or

4 “(B) the estimated excess energy use of
5 buildings that did not meet the applicable code
6 specified in paragraph (1) in the preceding
7 year, compared to a baseline of comparable
8 buildings that meet this code, is not more than
9 5 percent of the estimated energy use of all
10 buildings covered by this code during the pre-
11 ceding year.

12 “(4) SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD
13 ACHIEVEMENT OF COMPLIANCE.—A State or Indian
14 tribe shall be considered to have made significant
15 progress toward achieving compliance for purposes
16 of paragraph (1) if the State or Indian tribe—

17 “(A) has developed and is implementing a
18 plan for achieving compliance during the 8-year
19 period beginning on the date of enactment of
20 this paragraph, including annual targets for
21 compliance and active training and enforcement
22 programs; and

23 “(B) has met the most recent target under
24 subparagraph (A).

1 “(5) VALIDATION BY SECRETARY.—Not later
2 than 90 days after a State or Indian tribe certifi-
3 cation under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

4 “(A) determine whether the State or In-
5 dian tribe has demonstrated meeting the cri-
6 teria of this subsection, including accurate
7 measurement of compliance;

8 “(B) determine whether the certification
9 submitted by the State or Indian tribe is com-
10 plete; and

11 “(C) if the requirements of subparagraph
12 (B) are satisfied, validate the certification.

13 “(6) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section
14 shall be interpreted to require a State or Indian
15 tribe to adopt any building code or provision within
16 a code.

17 “(d) STATES OR INDIAN TRIBES THAT DO NOT
18 ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE.—

19 “(1) REPORTING.—A State or Indian tribe that
20 has not made a certification required under sub-
21 section (b) or (c) by the applicable deadline shall
22 submit to the Secretary a report on the status of the
23 State or Indian tribe with respect to meeting the re-
24 quirements and submitting the certification.

1 “(2) STATE SOVEREIGNTY.—Nothing in this
2 section shall be interpreted to require a State or In-
3 dian tribe to adopt any building code or provision
4 within a code.

5 “(3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—In any State or
6 Indian tribe for which the Secretary has not vali-
7 dated a certification under subsection (b) or (c), a
8 local government may be eligible for Federal support
9 by meeting the certification requirements of sub-
10 sections (b) and (c).

11 “(4) ANNUAL REPORTS BY SECRETARY.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
13 annually submit to Congress, and publish in the
14 Federal Register, a report on—

15 “(i) the status of model building en-
16 ergy codes;

17 “(ii) the status of code adoption and
18 compliance in the States and Indian tribes;

19 “(iii) implementation of this section;
20 and

21 “(iv) improvements in energy savings
22 over time as a result of the targets estab-
23 lished under section 307(b)(2).

24 “(B) IMPACTS.—The report shall include
25 estimates of impacts of past action under this

1 section, and potential impacts of further action,
2 on—

3 “(i) upfront financial and construction
4 costs, cost benefits and returns (using a
5 return on investment analysis), and life-
6 time energy use for buildings;

7 “(ii) resulting energy costs to individ-
8 uals and businesses; and

9 “(iii) resulting overall annual building
10 ownership and operating costs.

11 “(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES AND IN-
12 DIAN TRIBES.—The Secretary shall provide technical as-
13 sistance to States and Indian tribes to implement the goals
14 and requirements of this section, including procedures and
15 technical analysis for States and Indian tribes—

16 “(1) to implement State residential and com-
17 mercial building energy codes; and

18 “(2) to document the rate of compliance with a
19 building energy code.

20 “(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES AND IN-
21 DIAN TRIBES.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, upon
23 request, provide technical assistance to States and
24 Indian tribes to implement the goals and require-
25 ments of this section—

1 “(A) to implement State residential and
2 commercial building energy codes; and

3 “(B) to document the rate of compliance
4 with a building energy code.

5 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The assistance
6 shall include, as requested by the State or Indian
7 tribe, technical assistance in—

8 “(A) evaluating the energy savings of
9 building energy codes;

10 “(B) assessing the economic consider-
11 ations, referenced in section 307(b)(4), of im-
12 plementing building energy codes;

13 “(C) building energy analysis and design
14 tools;

15 “(D) energy simulation models;

16 “(E) building demonstrations;

17 “(F) developing the definitions of energy
18 use intensity and building types for use in
19 model building energy codes to evaluate the effi-
20 ciency impacts of the model building energy
21 codes; and

22 “(G) complying with a performance-based
23 pathway referenced in the model code.

24 “(3) EXCLUSION.—For purposes of this section,
25 ‘technical assistance’ shall not include actions that

1 advocate, promote, or discourage the adoption of a
2 particular building energy code, code provision, or
3 energy savings target to a State or Indian tribe.

4 “(4) INFORMATION QUALITY AND TRANS-
5 PARENCY.—For purposes of this section, information
6 provided by the Secretary, attendant to any tech-
7 nical assistance provided to a State or Indian tribe,
8 is ‘influential information’ and shall satisfy the
9 guidelines established by the Office of Management
10 and Budget and published at 67 Federal Register
11 8,452 (Feb. 22, 2002).

12 “(g) FEDERAL SUPPORT.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
14 support to States and Indian tribes—

15 “(A) to implement the reporting require-
16 ments of this section; and

17 “(B) to implement residential and commer-
18 cial building energy codes, including increasing
19 and verifying compliance with the codes and
20 training of State, tribal, and local building code
21 officials to implement and enforce the codes.

22 “(2) EXCLUSION.—Support shall not be given
23 to support adoption and implementation of model
24 building energy codes for which the Secretary has

1 made a determination under section 307(d)(1)(C),
2 that the code is not cost-effective.

3 “(3) TRAINING.—Support shall be offered to
4 States, to train State and local building code offi-
5 cials to implement and enforce codes described in
6 paragraph (2).

7 “(4) LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—States may work
8 under this subsection with local governments that
9 implement and enforce the codes.

10 “(h) VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS TO EXCEED MODEL
11 BUILDING ENERGY CODE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
13 technical assistance, as described in subsection (f),
14 for the development of voluntary programs that ex-
15 ceed the model building energy codes for residential
16 and commercial buildings for use as—

17 “(A) voluntary incentive programs adopted
18 by local, tribal, or State governments; and

19 “(B) non-binding guidelines for energy-ef-
20 ficient building design.

21 “(2) TARGETS.—The voluntary programs de-
22 scribed in paragraph (1) shall be designed—

23 “(A) to achieve substantial energy savings
24 compared to the model building energy codes;
25 and

1 “(B) to meet targets under section 307(b),
2 if available, up to 3 to 6 years in advance of the
3 target years.

4 “(i) STUDIES.—

5 “(1) GAO STUDY.—

6 “(A) The Comptroller General of the
7 United States shall conduct a study of the im-
8 pacts of updating the national model building
9 energy codes for residential and commercial
10 buildings. In conducting the study, the Comp-
11 troller General shall consider and report, at a
12 minimum—

13 “(i) the actual energy consumption
14 savings stemming from updated energy
15 codes compared to the energy consumption
16 savings predicted during code development;

17 “(ii) the actual consumer cost savings
18 stemming from updated energy codes com-
19 pared to predicted consumer cost savings;
20 and

21 “(iii) an accounting of expenditures of
22 the Federal funds under each program au-
23 thorized by the title or by amendments
24 made by this title.

1 “(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later
2 than 3 years after the date of enactment of the
3 Energy Savings and Building Efficiency Act of
4 2015, the Comptroller General of the United
5 States shall submit a report to the Committee
6 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
7 and the Committee on Energy and Commerce
8 of the House of Representatives including the
9 study findings and conclusions.

10 “(2) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Secretary, in
11 consultation with building science experts from the
12 National Laboratories and institutions of higher
13 education, designers and builders of energy-efficient
14 residential and commercial buildings, code officials,
15 and other stakeholders, shall undertake a study of
16 the feasibility, impact, economics, and merit of—

17 “(A) code improvements that would require
18 that buildings be designed, sited, and con-
19 structed in a manner that makes the buildings
20 more adaptable in the future to become zero-
21 net-energy after initial construction, as ad-
22 vances are achieved in energy-saving tech-
23 nologies;

1 “(B) code procedures to incorporate a ten-
2 year payback, not just first-year energy use, in
3 trade-offs and performance calculations; and

4 “(C) legislative options for increasing en-
5 ergy savings from building energy codes, includ-
6 ing additional incentives for effective State and
7 local verification of compliance with and en-
8 forcement of a code.

9 “(3) ENERGY DATA IN MULTI-TENANT BUILD-
10 INGS.—The Secretary, in consultation with appro-
11 priate representatives of the utility, utility regu-
12 latory, building ownership, and other stakeholders,
13 shall—

14 “(A) undertake a study of best practices
15 regarding delivery of aggregated energy con-
16 sumption information to owners and managers
17 of residential and commercial buildings with
18 multiple tenants and uses; and

19 “(B) consider the development of a memo-
20 randum of understanding between and among
21 affected stakeholders to reduce barriers to the
22 delivery of aggregated energy consumption in-
23 formation to such owners and managers.

24 “(j) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this sec-
25 tion or section 307 supersedes or modifies the application

1 of sections 321 through 346 of the Energy Policy and
2 Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291 et seq.).

3 “(k) FUNDING LIMITATIONS.—No Federal funds
4 shall be used to support actions by the Secretary, or
5 States, to advocate, promote, or discourage the adoption
6 of a particular building energy code, code provision, or en-
7 ergy saving target to a State or Indian tribe; or be pro-
8 vided to private third parties or non-governmental organi-
9 zations that engage in this type of advocacy.”.

10 (c) FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY
11 STANDARDS.—Section 305 of the Energy Conservation
12 and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6834) is amended by strik-
13 ing “voluntary building energy code” each place it appears
14 in subsections (a)(2)(B) and (b) and inserting “model
15 building energy code”.

16 (d) MODEL BUILDING ENERGY CODES.—Section 307
17 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42
18 U.S.C. 6836) is amended to read as follows:

19 **“SEC. 307. SUPPORT FOR MODEL BUILDING ENERGY**
20 **CODES.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide tech-
22 nical assistance, as described in subsection (c), for updat-
23 ing of model building energy codes.

24 “(b) TARGETS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
2 technical assistance, for updating the model building
3 energy codes.

4 “(2) TARGETS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
6 provide technical assistance, to States, Indian
7 tribes, local governments, nationally recognized
8 code and standards developers, and other inter-
9 ested parties for updating of model building en-
10 ergy codes by establishing one or more aggre-
11 gate energy savings targets through rulemaking
12 in accordance with section 553 of title 5,
13 United States Code, to achieve the purposes of
14 this section.

15 “(B) SEPARATE TARGETS.—Separate tar-
16 gets may be established for commercial and res-
17 idential buildings.

18 “(C) BASELINES.—The baseline for updat-
19 ing model building energy codes shall be the
20 2009 IECC for residential buildings and
21 ASHRAE Standard 90.1–2010 for commercial
22 buildings.

23 “(D) SPECIFIC YEARS.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Targets for spe-
25 cific years shall be established and revised

1 by the Secretary through rulemaking in ac-
2 cordance with section 553 of title 5,
3 United States Code, and coordinated with
4 nationally recognized code and standards
5 developers at a level that—

6 “(I) is at the maximum level of
7 energy efficiency that is technically
8 feasible and cost effective, while ac-
9 counting for the economic consider-
10 ations under paragraph (4); and

11 “(II) promotes the achievement
12 of commercial and residential high
13 performance buildings through high
14 performance energy efficiency (within
15 the meaning of section 401 of the En-
16 ergy Independence and Security Act
17 of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17061)).

18 “(ii) INITIAL TARGETS.—Not later
19 than 1 year after the date of enactment of
20 this clause, the Secretary shall establish
21 initial targets under this subparagraph.

22 “(iii) DIFFERENT TARGET YEARS.—
23 Subject to clause (i), prior to the applica-
24 ble year, the Secretary may set a later tar-
25 get year for any of the model building en-

1 ergy codes described in subparagraph (A)
2 if the Secretary determines that a target
3 cannot be met.

4 “(E) SMALL BUSINESS.—When estab-
5 lishing targets under this paragraph through
6 rulemaking, the Secretary shall ensure compli-
7 ance with the Small Business Regulatory En-
8 forcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601
9 note; Public Law 104–121) for any indirect eco-
10 nomic effect on small entities that is reasonably
11 foreseeable and a result of such rule.

12 “(3) APPLIANCE STANDARDS AND OTHER FAC-
13 TORS AFFECTING BUILDING ENERGY USE.—In es-
14 tablishing energy savings targets under paragraph
15 (2), the Secretary shall develop and adjust the tar-
16 gets in recognition of potential savings and costs re-
17 lating to—

18 “(A) efficiency gains made in appliances,
19 lighting, windows, insulation, and building enve-
20 lope sealing;

21 “(B) advancement of distributed genera-
22 tion and on-site renewable power generation
23 technologies;

1 “(C) equipment improvements for heating,
2 cooling, ventilation systems and water heating
3 systems;

4 “(D) building management systems and
5 SmartGrid technologies to reduce energy use;
6 and

7 “(E) other technologies, practices, and
8 building systems regarding building plug load
9 and other energy uses.

10 In developing and adjusting the targets, the Sec-
11 retary shall use climate zone weighted averages for
12 equipment efficiency for heating, cooling, ventilation
13 systems and water heating systems, using equipment
14 that is actually installed.

15 “(4) ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS.—In estab-
16 lishing and revising energy savings targets under
17 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall consider the eco-
18 nomic feasibility of achieving the proposed targets
19 established under this section and the potential costs
20 and savings for consumers and building owners, by
21 conducting a return on investment analysis, using a
22 simple payback methodology over a 3-, 5-, and 7-
23 year period. The Secretary shall not propose or pro-
24 vide technical or financial assistance for any code,
25 provision in the code, or energy target, or amend-

1 ment thereto that has a payback greater than 10
2 years.

3 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MODEL BUILDING
4 ENERGY CODE-SETTING AND STANDARD DEVELOPMENT
5 ORGANIZATIONS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, on a
7 timely basis, provide technical assistance to
8 modelment organizations consistent to implement
9 the goals of this section.

10 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The assistance
11 shall include, as requested by the organizations,
12 technical assistance in—

13 “(A) evaluating the energy savings of
14 building energy codes;

15 “(B) assessing the economic consider-
16 ations, under subsection (b)(4), of code or
17 standards proposals or revisions;

18 “(C) building energy analysis and design
19 tools;

20 “(D) energy simulation models;

21 “(E) building demonstrations;

22 “(F) developing definitions of energy use
23 intensity and building types for use in model
24 building energy codes to evaluate the efficiency
25 impacts of the model building energy codes;

1 “(G) developing a performance-based path-
2 way for compliance; and

3 “(H) developing model building energy
4 codes by Indian tribes in accordance with tribal
5 law.

6 “(3) EXCLUSION.—For purposes of this section,
7 ‘technical assistance’ shall not include actions that
8 advocate, promote, or discourage the adoption of a
9 particular building energy code, code provision, or
10 energy savings target.

11 “(4) INFORMATION QUALITY AND TRANS-
12 PARENCY.—For purposes of this section, information
13 provided by the Secretary, attendant to development
14 of any energy savings targets, is ‘influential informa-
15 tion’ and shall satisfy the guidelines established by
16 the Office of Management and Budget and published
17 at 67 Federal Register 8,452 (Feb. 22, 2002).

18 “(d) AMENDMENT PROPOSALS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may submit
20 timely model building energy code amendment pro-
21 posals to the model building energy code-setting and
22 standard development organizations, with supporting
23 evidence, sufficient to enable the model building en-
24 ergy codes to meet the targets established under
25 subsection (b)(2).

1 “(2) PROCESS AND FACTORS.—Amendment
2 proposals submitted by the Secretary shall follow
3 rulemaking in accordance with section 553 of title 5,
4 United States Code, and the factors and standards
5 set forth in subsections (b)(2)(E), (b)(3), and (b)(4).
6 Information provided by the Secretary, attendant to
7 submission of any amendment proposals, is ‘influen-
8 tial information’, and shall satisfy the guidelines es-
9 tablished by the Office of Management and Budget
10 and published at 67 Federal Register 8,452 (Feb.
11 22, 2002). When calculating the costs and benefits
12 of an amendment, the Secretary shall use climate
13 zone weighted averages for equipment efficiency for
14 heating, cooling, ventilation systems and water heat-
15 ing systems, using equipment that is actually in-
16 stalled.

17 “(e) ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY.—The Secretary shall
18 make publicly available the entire calculation methodology
19 (including input assumptions and data) used by the Sec-
20 retary to estimate the energy savings of code or standard
21 proposals and revisions.

22 “(f) METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary
23 shall establish a methodology for evaluating cost-effective-
24 ness of energy code changes in multifamily buildings that

1 incorporates economic parameters representative of typical
2 multifamily buildings.

3 “(g) DETERMINATION.—

4 “(1) REVISION OF MODEL BUILDING ENERGY
5 CODES.—If the provisions of the IECC or ASHRAE
6 Standard 90.1 regarding building energy use are re-
7 vised, the Secretary shall make a preliminary deter-
8 mination not later than 90 days after the date of the
9 revision, and a final determination not later than 15
10 months after the date of the revision, on whether or
11 not the revision—

12 “(A) improves energy efficiency in build-
13 ings compared to the existing model building
14 energy code;

15 “(B) meets the applicable targets under
16 subsection (b)(2); and

17 “(C) is technically feasible and cost-effec-
18 tive.

19 “(2) CODES OR STANDARDS NOT MEETING CRI-
20 TERIA.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary
22 makes a preliminary determination under para-
23 graph (1)(B) that a code or standard does not
24 meet the targets established under subsection
25 (b)(2), is not technically feasible, or is not cost-

1 effective, the Secretary may at the same time
2 provide technical assistance, as described in
3 subsection (c), to the model building energy
4 code or standard developer, with proposed
5 changes that would result in a model building
6 energy code that meets the criteria and with
7 supporting evidence. Proposed changes sub-
8 mitted by the Secretary shall follow rulemaking
9 in accordance with section 553 of title 5,
10 United States Code, and the factors and stand-
11 ards set forth in subsections (b)(2)(E), (b)(3),
12 and (b)(4). Information provided by the Sec-
13 retary, attendant to submission of any amend-
14 ment proposals, is ‘influential information’, and
15 shall satisfy the guidelines established by the
16 Office of Management and Budget and pub-
17 lished at 67 Federal Register 8,452 (Feb. 22,
18 2002).

19 “(B) INCORPORATION OF CHANGES.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—On receipt of the
21 technical assistance, as described in sub-
22 section (c), the model building energy code
23 or standard developer shall have an addi-
24 tional 270 days to accept or reject the pro-
25 posed changes of the Secretary the model

1 building energy code or standard for the
2 Secretary to make a final determination.

3 “(ii) FINAL DETERMINATION.—A
4 final determination under paragraph (1)
5 shall be on the modified model building en-
6 ergy code or standard.

7 “(h) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out this section,
8 the Secretary shall—

9 “(1) publish notice of targets, amendment pro-
10 posals and supporting analysis and determinations
11 under this section in the Federal Register to provide
12 an explanation of and the basis for such actions, in-
13 cluding any supporting modeling, data, assumptions,
14 protocols, and cost benefit analysis, including return
15 on investment; and

16 “(2) provide an opportunity for public comment
17 on targets, amendment proposals and supporting
18 analysis and determinations under this section, in
19 accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States
20 Code.

21 “(i) VOLUNTARY CODES AND STANDARDS.—Not
22 withstanding any other provision of this section, any
23 model building code or standard established under this
24 section shall not be binding on a State, local government,
25 or Indian tribe as a matter of Federal law.”.

1 **Subtitle B—Worker Training and**
2 **Capacity Building**

3 **SEC. 111. BUILDING TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS.**

4 The Secretary shall provide grants to institutions of
5 higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) and Tribal Col-
7 leges or Universities (as defined in section 316(b) of that
8 Act (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))) to establish building training
9 and assessment centers—

10 (1) to identify opportunities for optimizing en-
11 ergy efficiency and environmental performance in
12 buildings;

13 (2) to promote the application of emerging con-
14 cepts and technologies in commercial and institu-
15 tional buildings; and

16 (3) to train engineers, architects, building sci-
17 entists, building energy permitting and enforcement
18 officials, and building technicians in energy-efficient
19 design and operation.

20 **TITLE II—MISCELLANEOUS**

21 **SEC. 201. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF BUILDING ASSET RAT-**
22 **ING PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any program of the Secretary
24 that may enable the owner of a commercial building or
25 a residential building to obtain a rating, score, or label

1 regarding the actual or anticipated energy usage or per-
2 formance of a building shall be made available on a vol-
3 untary, optional, and market-driven basis.

4 (b) DISCLAIMER AS TO REGULATORY INTENT.—In-
5 formation disseminated by the Secretary regarding the
6 program described in subsection (a), including any infor-
7 mation made available by the Secretary on a website, shall
8 include language plainly stating that such program is not
9 developed or intended to be the basis for a regulatory pro-
10 gram by a Federal, State, local, or municipal government
11 body.

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