

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 253

To coordinate the provision of energy retrofitting assistance to schools.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2019

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To coordinate the provision of energy retrofitting assistance
to schools.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Streamlining Energy
5 Efficiency for Schools Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSIST-**
7 **ANCE FOR SCHOOLS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) SCHOOL.—The term “school” means—

1 (A) an elementary school or secondary
2 school (as defined in section 8101 of the Ele-
3 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
4 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

5 (B) an institution of higher education (as
6 defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Edu-
7 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)));

8 (C) a school of the defense dependents'
9 education system under the Defense Depend-
10 ents' Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et
11 seq.) or established under section 2164 of title
12 10, United States Code;

13 (D) a school operated by the Bureau of In-
14 dian Affairs;

15 (E) a tribally controlled school (as defined
16 in section 5212 of the Tribally Controlled
17 Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2511)); and

18 (F) a Tribal College or University (as de-
19 fined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

21 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of Energy.

23 (b) DESIGNATION OF LEAD AGENCY.—The Sec-
24 retary, acting through the Office of Energy Efficiency and
25 Renewable Energy, shall act as the lead Federal agency

1 for coordinating and disseminating information on exist-
2 ing Federal programs and assistance that may be used
3 to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, re-
4 newable energy, and energy retrofitting projects for
5 schools.

6 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out coordination
7 and outreach under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

8 (1) in consultation and coordination with the
9 appropriate Federal agencies, carry out a review of
10 existing programs and financing mechanisms (in-
11 cluding revolving loan funds and loan guarantees)
12 available in or from the Department of Agriculture,
13 the Department of Energy, the Department of Edu-
14 cation, the Department of the Treasury, the Internal
15 Revenue Service, the Environmental Protection
16 Agency, and other appropriate Federal agencies with
17 jurisdiction over energy financing and facilitation
18 that are currently used or may be used to help ini-
19 tiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, renew-
20 able energy, and energy retrofitting projects for
21 schools;

22 (2) establish a Federal cross-departmental col-
23 laborative coordination, education, and outreach ef-
24 fort to streamline communication and promote avail-
25 able Federal opportunities and assistance described

1 in paragraph (1) for energy efficiency, renewable en-
2 ergy, and energy retrofitting projects that enables
3 States, local educational agencies, and schools—

4 (A) to use existing Federal opportunities
5 more effectively; and

6 (B) to form partnerships with Governors,
7 State energy programs, local educational, finan-
8 cial, and energy officials, State and local gov-
9 ernment officials, nonprofit organizations, and
10 other appropriate entities to support the initi-
11 ation of the projects;

12 (3) provide technical assistance for States, local
13 educational agencies, and schools to help develop
14 and finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and
15 energy retrofitting projects—

16 (A) to increase the energy efficiency of
17 buildings or facilities;

18 (B) to install systems that individually
19 generate energy from renewable energy re-
20 sources;

21 (C) to establish partnerships to leverage
22 economies of scale and additional financing
23 mechanisms available to larger clean energy ini-
24 tiatives; or

25 (D) to promote—

1 (i) the maintenance of health, environ-
2 mental quality, and safety in schools, in-
3 cluding the ambient air quality, through
4 energy efficiency, renewable energy, and
5 energy retrofit projects; and

6 (ii) the achievement of expected en-
7 ergy savings and renewable energy produc-
8 tion through proper operations and main-
9 tenance practices;

10 (4) develop and maintain a single online re-
11 source website with contact information for relevant
12 technical assistance and support staff in the Office
13 of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for
14 States, local educational agencies, and schools to ef-
15 fectively access and use Federal opportunities and
16 assistance described in paragraph (1) to develop en-
17 ergy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retro-
18 fitting projects; and

19 (5) establish a process for recognition of schools
20 that—

21 (A) have successfully implemented energy
22 efficiency, renewable energy, and energy retro-
23 fitting projects; and

1 (B) are willing to serve as resources for
2 other local educational agencies and schools to
3 assist initiation of similar efforts.

4 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
5 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
6 Congress a report describing the implementation of this
7 section.

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