

Union Calendar No.

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5473

[Report No. 118-]

To amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Mr. NORCROSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

NOVEMBER --, 2023

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on September 14, 2023]

A BILL

To amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes, 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.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Resilient*
5 *Buildings Act of 2023”.*

6 **SEC. 2. PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.**

7 *Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief*
8 *and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) is amend-*
9 *ed by adding at the end the following:*

10 *“(m) LATEST PUBLISHED EDITIONS.—For purposes of*
11 *subsections (e)(1)(B)(iv) and (g)(10), the term ‘latest pub-*
12 *lished editions’ means, with respect to relevant consensus-*
13 *based codes, specifications, and standards, the 2 most re-*
14 *cently published editions.”.*

15 **SEC. 3. HAZARD MITIGATION REVOLVING LOAN FUND PRO-**
16 **GRAM.**

17 *Section 205(f)(5) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster*
18 *Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5135(f)(5))*
19 *is amended—*

20 *(1) in the paragraph heading by striking “ES-*
21 *TABLISHING” and insert “IMPLEMENTING”;*

22 *(2) by striking “establish” and insert “imple-*
23 *ment”;*

24 *(3) by inserting “2” after “latest”; and*

1 (4) by inserting “, including any amendments
2 made by State, local, Tribal, or territorial govern-
3 ments to such codes, specifications, and standards,”
4 after “standards”.

5 **SEC. 4. RESIDENTIAL RETROFIT AND RESILIENCE PILOT**
6 **PROGRAM.**

7 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Administrator of the Fed-
8 eral Emergency Management Agency shall carry out a resi-
9 dential resilience pilot program through the program estab-
10 lished under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
11 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) to
12 make available assistance to States and local governments
13 for the purpose of providing grants to individuals for resi-
14 dential resilience retrofits.

15 (b) *AMOUNT OF FUNDS.*—The Administrator may use
16 not more than 10 percent of the assistance made available
17 to applicants on an annual basis under section 203 of the
18 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
19 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) to provide assistance under this
20 section.

21 (c) *TIMELINE.*—The Administrator shall establish the
22 pilot program under this section not later than 1 year after
23 the date of enactment of this Act and the program shall
24 terminate on September 30, 2026.

1 (d) *PRIORITY.*—*In carrying out the pilot program*
2 *under this section, the Administrator shall ensure that a*
3 *State or local government receiving assistance under the*
4 *program provides grants to individuals that demonstrate*
5 *financial need.*

6 (e) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 4 years after the date of*
7 *enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to*
8 *the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the*
9 *House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland*
10 *Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report*
11 *that includes—*

12 (1) *a summary of the grant awards and projects*
13 *carried out under this section;*

14 (2) *a detailed compilation of results achieved by*
15 *the grant awards and projects carried out under this*
16 *section, including the number of homes receiving ret-*
17 *rofits, the types and average costs of retrofits, demo-*
18 *graphic information for participants in the program,*
19 *and estimate avoidance in disaster impacts and Fed-*
20 *eral disaster payments as a result of the grant invest-*
21 *ments; and*

22 (3) *any identified implementation challenges*
23 *and recommendations for improvements to the pilot*
24 *program.*

1 (f) *APPLICABILITY.*—*This section shall only apply to*
2 *amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of*
3 *this Act.*

4 (g) *RESIDENTIAL RESILIENT RETROFITS DEFINED.*—

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*In this section, the term “resi-*
6 *dential resilient retrofits” means a project that—*

7 (A) *is designed to increase the resilience of*
8 *an existing home or residence using mitigation*
9 *measures which the administrator determines re-*
10 *duce damage and impacts from natural disaster*
11 *hazards and risks that are most likely to occur*
12 *in the area where the home is located; and*

13 (B) *to the extent applicable, are consistent*
14 *with the 2 most recently published editions of*
15 *relevant consensus-based codes, specifications,*
16 *and standards, including any amendments made*
17 *by State, local, tribal, or territorial governments*
18 *to such codes, specifications, and standards that*
19 *incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs*
20 *and establish criteria for the design, construc-*
21 *tion, and maintenance of residential structures*
22 *and facilities that may be eligible for assistance*
23 *under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and*
24 *Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et*
25 *seq.) for the purpose of protecting the health,*

1 *safety, and general welfare of the buildings' users*
2 *against disasters.*

3 (2) *INCLUSION.—In this section, the term “resi-*
4 *dential resilient retrofits” includes—*

5 (A) *elevations of homes and elevations of*
6 *utilities within and around structures to miti-*
7 *gate damages;*

8 (B) *floodproofing measures;*

9 (C) *the construction of tornado safe rooms;*

10 (D) *seismic retrofits;*

11 (E) *wildfire retrofit and mitigation meas-*
12 *ures;*

13 (F) *wind retrofits, including roof replace-*
14 *ments, hurricane straps, and tie-downs; and*

15 (G) *any other measures that meet the re-*
16 *quirements of paragraph (1), as determined by*
17 *the Administrator.*