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.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

SEC. 2. PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.

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

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

SEC. 3. HAZARD MITIGATION REVOLVING LOAN FUND PRO-
GRAM.

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

(1) in the paragraph heading by striking “ES-
TABLING” and insert “IMPLEMENTING”;

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

(3) by inserting “2” after “latest”; and
(4) by inserting “, including any amendments made by State, local, Tribal, or territorial governments to such codes, specifications, and standards,” after “standards”.

SEC. 4. RESIDENTIAL RETROFIT AND RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall carry out a residential resilience pilot program through the program established under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) to make available assistance to States and local governments for the purpose of providing grants to individuals for residential resilience retrofits.

(b) Amount of Funds.—The Administrator may use not more than 10 percent of the assistance made available to applicants on an annual basis under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) to provide assistance under this section.

(c) Timeline.—The Administrator shall establish the pilot program under this section not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and the program shall terminate on September 30, 2026.
(d) PRIORITY.—In carrying out the pilot program under this section, the Administrator shall ensure that a State or local government receiving assistance under the program provides grants to individuals that demonstrate financial need.

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

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

(2) a detailed compilation of results achieved by the grant awards and projects carried out under this section, including the number of homes receiving retrofits, the types and average costs of retrofits, demographic information for participants in the program, and estimate avoidance in disaster impacts and Federal disaster payments as a result of the grant investments; and

(3) any identified implementation challenges and recommendations for improvements to the pilot program.
(f) **Applicability.**—This section shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) **Residential Resilient Retrofits Defined.**—

(1) **In general.**—In this section, the term “residential resilient retrofits” means a project that—

(A) is designed to increase the resilience of an existing home or residence using mitigation measures which the administrator determines reduce damage and impacts from natural disaster hazards and risks that are most likely to occur in the area where the home is located; and

(B) to the extent applicable, are consistent with the 2 most recently published editions of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards, including any amendments made by State, local, tribal, or territorial governments to such codes, specifications, and standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs and establish criteria for the design, construction, and maintenance of residential structures and facilities that may be eligible for assistance under the **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act** (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) for the purpose of protecting the health,
safety, and general welfare of the buildings’ users against disasters.

(2) INCLUSION.—In this section, the term “residential resilient retrofits” includes—

(A) elevations of homes and elevations of utilities within and around structures to mitigate damages;

(B) floodproofing measures;

(C) the construction of tornado safe rooms;

(D) seismic retrofits;

(E) wildfire retrofit and mitigation measures;

(F) wind retrofits, including roof replacements, hurricane straps, and tie-downs; and

(G) any other measures that meet the requirements of paragraph (1), as determined by the Administrator.