

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 501

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

JANUARY 16, 2025

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

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 2025”.

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
9 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(m) LATEST PUBLISHED EDITIONS.—For purposes
2 of subsections (e)(1)(B)(iv) and (g)(10), the term ‘latest
3 published editions’ means, with respect to relevant con-
4 sensus-based codes, specifications, and standards, the 2
5 most recently published editions.”.

6 **SEC. 3. HAZARD MITIGATION REVOLVING LOAN FUND PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 Section 205(f)(5) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
9 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
10 5135(f)(5)) is amended—

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

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

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

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

20 **SEC. 4. RESIDENTIAL RETROFIT AND RESILIENCE PILOT**
21 **PROGRAM.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the
23 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall carry out
24 a residential resilience pilot program through the program
25 established under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford

1 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
2 5133) to make available assistance to States and local gov-
3 ernments for the purpose of providing grants to individ-
4 uals for residential resilience retrofits.

5 (b) AMOUNT OF FUNDS.—The Administrator may
6 use not more than 10 percent of the assistance made avail-
7 able to applicants on an annual basis under section 203
8 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
9 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) to provide assistance
10 under this section.

11 (c) TIMELINE.—The Administrator shall establish
12 the pilot program under this section not later than 1 year
13 after the date of enactment of this Act and the program
14 shall terminate on September 30, 2028.

15 (d) PRIORITY.—In carrying out the pilot program
16 under this section, the Administrator shall ensure that a
17 State or local government receiving assistance under the
18 program provides grants to individuals that demonstrate
19 financial need.

20 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date
21 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit
22 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
23 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
24 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
25 ate a report that includes—

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

3 (2) a detailed compilation of results achieved by
4 the grant awards and projects carried out under this
5 section, including the number of homes receiving ret-
6 rofits, the types and average costs of retrofits, demo-
7 graphic information for participants in the program,
8 and estimate avoidance in disaster impacts and Fed-
9 eral disaster payments as a result of the grant in-
10 vestments; and

11 (3) any identified implementation challenges
12 and recommendations for improvements to the pilot
13 program.

14 (f) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall only apply to
15 amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment
16 of this Act.

17 (g) RESIDENTIAL RESILIENT RETROFITS DE-
18 FINED.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term
20 “residential resilient retrofits” means a project
21 that—

22 (A) is designed to increase the resilience of
23 an existing home or residence using mitigation
24 measures which the administrator determines
25 reduce damage and impacts from natural dis-

aster 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;

- 1 (D) seismic retrofits;
- 2 (E) wildfire retrofit and mitigation meas-
- 3 ures;
- 4 (F) wind retrofits, including roof replace-
- 5 ments, hurricane straps, and tie-downs; and
- 6 (G) any other measures that meet the re-
- 7 quirements of paragraph (1), as determined by
- 8 the Administrator.

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