To amend the Toxic Substances Control Act relating to lead-based paint renovation and remodeling activities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2012

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LONG, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. BOREN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. COLE, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. BOSWELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Toxic Substances Control Act relating to lead-based paint renovation and remodeling activities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Lead Exposure Reduction Amendments Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 401 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2681) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—
(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses appropriately;

(B) in the first sentence, by striking “The term” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term”;

(C) by striking “Such term includes—” and inserting the following:

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘abatement’ includes—”;

and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘abatement’ does not include any renovation, remodeling, or other activity—

“(i) the primary purpose of which is to repair, restore, or remodel target housing, public buildings constructed before 1978, or commercial buildings; and

“(ii) that incidentally results in a reduction or elimination of lead-based paint hazards.”;

(2) by redesignating—

(A) paragraphs (4) through (12) as paragraphs (5) through (13);
(B) paragraph (13) as paragraph (15);

and

(C) paragraphs (14) through (17) and paragraphs (18) through (21), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) Emergency Renovation.—The term ‘emergency renovation’ means a renovation or remodeling activity that is carried out in response to an event—

“(A) that is an act of God, as that term is defined in section 101(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; or

“(B) that if not attended to as soon as is practicable—

“(i) presents a risk to the public health or safety; or

“(ii) threatens to cause significant damage to equipment or property.”;

(4) by striking paragraph (10) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) and inserting the following:

“(10) Lead-Based Paint.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘lead-based paint’ means paint or other surface coatings that contain lead in excess of—

“(i) 1.0 milligrams per centimeter squared; or

“(ii) 0.5 percent by weight.

“(B) TARGET HOUSING.—With respect to paint or other surface coatings on target housing, the term ‘lead-based paint’ means paint or other surface coatings that contain lead in excess of the lower of—

“(i) the level described in subparagraph (A); or

“(ii) a level established by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under section 302(c) of the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act.”;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (13) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) the following:

“(14) POSTABATEMENT CLEARANCE TESTING.—The term ‘postabatement clearance testing’ means testing that—

“(A) is carried out upon the completion of any lead-based paint activity to ensure that—

“(i) the reduction is complete; and
“(ii) no lead-based paint hazards remain in the area in which the lead-based paint activity occurs; and

“(B) includes a visual assessment and the collection and analysis of environmental samples from an area in which lead-based paint activities occur.”; and

(6) by inserting after paragraph (15) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) the following:

“(16) RENOVATION.—The term ‘renovation’ has the meaning given such term in section 745.83 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph.

“(17) RENOVATION AND REMODELING REGULATION.—The term ‘renovation and remodeling regulation’ means a regulation promulgated under section 402(a) and revised pursuant to section 402(c)(3)(A), as such regulation is applied to renovation or remodeling activities in target housing, public buildings constructed before 1978, and commercial buildings.”.

SEC. 3. LEAD-BASED PAINT ACTIVITIES TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.

Section 402(c) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2682(c)) is amended—
(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) Study of certification.—

“(A) In general.—Not later than 1 year prior to proposing any renovation and remodeling regulation after the date of enactment of the Lead Exposure Reduction Amendments Act of 2012, the Administrator shall conduct, submit to the Congress, and make available for public comment (after peer review) the results of, a study of the extent to which persons engaged in various types of renovation and remodeling activities in target housing, public buildings constructed before 1978, or commercial buildings—

“(i) are exposed to lead in the conduct of such activities; and

“(ii) disturb lead and create a lead-based paint hazard on a regular or occasional basis in the conduct of such activities.

“(B) Scope and coverage.—Each study conducted under subparagraph (A) shall consider the risks described in clauses (i) and (ii) of such subparagraph with respect to each sepa-
rate building type described in such subpara-
graph, as the regulation to be proposed would
apply to each such building type.”;
(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the first sentence by striking “With-
in 4 years” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4
years”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) EXEMPTION.—An emergency renova-
tion shall be exempt from any renovation and
remodeling regulation, and a person carrying
out an emergency renovation shall be exempt
from any regulation promulgated under section
406(b) with respect to the emergency renova-
tion.

“(C) PROHIBITION ON POSTABATEMENT
CLEARANCE REQUIREMENT.—No renovation
and remodeling regulation may require
postabatement clearance testing.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) TARGET HOUSING OWNERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60
days after the date of enactment of this para-
graph, and subject to subparagraph (B), the
Administrator shall promulgate regulations to
permit an owner of a residential dwelling that
is target housing, who resides in such residen-
tial dwelling, to authorize a contractor to forgo
compliance with the requirements of a renova-
tion and remodeling regulation with respect to
such residential dwelling.

“(B) Written certification.—The reg-
ulations promulgated under subparagraph (A)
shall require that an owner of a residential
dwelling that is target housing, who resides in
such residential dwelling, may only authorize a
contractor to forgo compliance with the require-
ments of a renovation and remodeling regula-
tion if the owner submits to such contractor a
written certification stating that—

“(i) the renovation or remodeling
project is to be carried out at the residen-
tial dwelling in which the owner resides;

“(ii) no pregnant woman or child
under the age of 6 resides in the residen-
tial dwelling as of the date on which the
renovation or remodeling project com-
mences, or will reside in the residential
dwelling for the duration of such project;
and

“(iii) the owner acknowledges that, in
carrying out the project, such contractor
will be exempt from the requirements of a
renovation and remodeling regulation.

“(C) RESTRICTION.—A contractor may not
forgo compliance with the requirements of a
renovation and remodeling regulation pursuant
to a written certification submitted under sub-
paragraph (B) if such contractor has actual
knowledge of a pregnant woman or child under
the age of 6 residing in the residential dwelling
as of the date on which the renovation or re-
modeling commences (and for the duration of
such project).

“(D) LIMITATION OF CONTRACTOR LIABIL-
ity.—The Administrator may not hold a con-
tractor responsible for a misrepresentation
made by the owner of a residential dwelling in
a written certification submitted under subpara-
graph (B), unless the contractor has actual
knowledge of such a misrepresentation.

“(5) TEST KITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—
“(i) Recognition.—The Administrator shall recognize for use under this title a qualifying test kit, and publish in the Federal Register notice of such recognition.

“(ii) Suspension of Enforcement of Certain Regulations.—If, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator does not recognize a qualifying test kit under clause (i), the Administrator—

“(I) shall publish in the Federal Register notice of such failure to recognize a qualifying test kit; and

“(II) except as provided in clause (iii), may not enforce any post-1960 building renovation and remodeling regulation, with respect to a period beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph and ending on the date that is 6 months after the date on which the Administrator—
“(aa) recognizes for use under this title a qualifying test kit; and

“(bb) publishes in the Federal Register notice of such recognition and of the date on which enforcement of the post-1960 building renovation and remodeling regulations will resume.

“(iii) Applicability of Suspension.—The Administrator shall not suspend enforcement of any post-1960 building renovation and remodeling regulation for the period described in clause (ii)(II) with respect to a residential dwelling in which a pregnant woman or child under the age of 6 resides.

“(B) Qualifying Test Kit.—In this subsection, the term ‘qualifying test kit’ means a chemical test that—

“(i) can determine the presence of lead-based paint, as defined in section 401(10)(A);

“(ii) has a false positive response rate of 10 percent or less;
“(iii) has a false negative response rate of 5 percent or less;
“(iv) does not require the use of off-site laboratory analysis to obtain results;
“(v) is inexpensively and commercially available; and
“(vi) does not require special training to use.

“(C) POST-1960 BUILDING RENOVATION AND REMODELING REGULATION.—In this sub-section, the term ‘post-1960 building renovation and remodeling regulation’ means a renovation and remodeling regulation, as it applies to—
“(i) target housing constructed after January 1, 1960;
“(ii) public buildings constructed between January 1, 1960 and January 1, 1978; and
“(iii) commercial buildings constructed after January 1, 1960.

“(6) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PENALTIES.—Any renovation and remodeling regulation requiring the submission of documentation to the Administrator shall provide—
“(A) an exemption from an applicable penalty for failure to comply with such requirement for a person who—

“(i) is submitting the required documentation for the first time; and

“(ii) submits documentation that contains only de minimus or typographical errors, as determined by the Administrator; and

“(B) a process by which a person described in subparagraph (A) may resubmit the required documentation.

“(7) ACCREDITATION OF RECERTIFICATION COURSES.—The hands-on training requirements required by subsection (a)(2)(D) shall not apply to any recertification course accredited by the Environmental Protection Agency that is otherwise required to be completed under this title by a person that is certified to engage in renovation and remodeling activities.”.