

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3703

To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an excess urban heat mitigation grant program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2025

Ms. ANSARI (for herself, Mr. BELL, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LICCARDO, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Ms. RIVAS, Mr. STANTON, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an excess urban heat mitigation grant program, 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 “Excess Urban Heat  
5 Mitigation Act of 2025”.

### 6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Heat stress is a leading weather-related  
2           cause of death in the United States, with more than  
3           600 people killed in the United States by extreme  
4           heat every year, and many more experiencing res-  
5           piratory problems and heat-related illness.

6           (2) Urban areas are likely to experience higher  
7           temperatures than surrounding areas due to design-  
8           related attributes of the built environment, including  
9           manmade factors such as low solar reflectance, low  
10          vegetation and tree cover, high building density, high  
11          impervious surface cover, and waste heat emissions.

12          (3) Underserved communities are disproportion-  
13          ately impacted by extreme heat. In the United  
14          States, low-income census blocks have 15.2 percent  
15          less tree cover and an average land surface tempera-  
16          ture that is 1.5 degrees Celsius hotter than high-in-  
17          come blocks.

18          (4) Studies show that in 97 percent of the larg-  
19          est urbanized areas in the United States, people of  
20          color live in census tracts with higher surface urban  
21          heat intensity than non-Hispanic Whites, indicating  
22          that heat exposure is unequally distributed by race.

23          (5) Urban heat is not only a public health  
24          threat but also an economic one, as rising heat leads  
25          to increased roadway maintenance costs, higher resi-

dential and commercial summer energy costs, and lost labor productivity, as well as the cost to patients and health care infrastructure for heat-related hospitalizations and emergency department visits.

(6) Excess urban heat causes increased energy consumption, elevated emission of air pollutants and greenhouse gases, and impaired water quality.

(7) Heat waves are expected to not only occur more frequently in the United States but also be of longer duration, lasting 10 to 20 days longer by the end of the century.

(8) Solutions exist that communities can implement now to mitigate the challenge of urban heat. One example is the planting of urban trees to offset or reverse the urban heat island effect. Studies in multiple cities in the United States have shown that urban trees can offset projected increases in heat-related mortality in 2050 by 40 to 99 percent.

**SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) COVERED CENSUS TRACT.—The term “covered census tract” means a census tract with a poverty rate of not less than 20 percent, as measured by the 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census

1 for the period of 2019 through 2023, including such  
2 a census tract that includes an area that was des-  
3 ignated as “hazardous” or “definitely declining” in  
4 maps drawn by the Home Owners’ Loan Corpora-  
5 tion.

6 (2) COVERED GRANT.—The term “covered  
7 grant” means a grant awarded under section 4(a).

8 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
9 ty” means—

10 (A) a State (as defined in section 102 of  
11 the Housing and Community Development Act  
12 of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302));

13 (B) a metropolitan planning organization;

14 (C) a unit of general local government (as  
15 defined in section 102 of the Housing and Com-  
16 munity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C.  
17 5302));

18 (D) an Indian tribe (as defined in section  
19 102 of the Housing and Community Develop-  
20 ment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302));

21 (E) a territorial government;

22 (F) a nonprofit organization working in co-  
23 ordination with an entity described in subpara-  
24 graphs (A) through (E); and

1 (G) a consortium of nonprofit organiza-  
2 tions.

3 (4) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—The term “eligible  
4 project”—

5 (A) means a project designed to mitigate  
6 or manage heat in an urban area by—

7 (i) working to mitigate the causes of  
8 higher temperatures; or

9 (ii) managing the impacts of higher  
10 temperatures or other extreme weather  
11 events; and

12 (B) includes the implementation, construc-  
13 tion, or maintenance of—

14 (i) tree planting and maintenance  
15 with, wherever possible, preference for—

16 (I) native tree species;

17 (II) tree species with high shade  
18 production and carbon sequestration;

19 and

20 (III) tree species that are valu-  
21 able for food production;

22 (ii) cool pavements;

23 (iii) cool roofs;

24 (iv) green roofs;

- 1 (v) bus and other transit stop shel-
- 2 ters;
- 3 (vi) shade structures;
- 4 (vii) cooling centers with, wherever
- 5 possible, preference for—
- 6 (I) cooling centers that collabo-
- 7 rate with existing community centers
- 8 and spaces;
- 9 (II) cooling centers with year-
- 10 round accessibility; and
- 11 (III) cooling centers that utilize
- 12 renewable energy;
- 13 (viii) community gardens, including
- 14 agroforestry practices;
- 15 (ix) outreach to communities about re-
- 16 sources available under this section;
- 17 (x) local heat mitigation and manage-
- 18 ment education efforts;
- 19 (xi) urban forestry master plans;
- 20 (xii) urban tree canopy assessments;
- 21 (xiii) arboriculture training;
- 22 (xiv) maintenance of existing urban
- 23 trees; or

1 (xv) other actions the Secretary deter-  
2 mines appropriate to mitigate or manage  
3 excess urban heat.

4 (5) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.—The term “en-  
5 vironmental justice” means the fair treatment and  
6 meaningful involvement of all people regardless of  
7 race, color, culture, national origin, income, and edu-  
8 cational levels with respect to the development, im-  
9 plementation, and enforcement of protective environ-  
10 mental laws, regulations, and policies.

11 (6) EXCESS URBAN HEAT EFFECT.—The term  
12 “excess urban heat effect” means the phenomenon  
13 of local urban warming, resulting from manmade  
14 factors such as low solar reflectance, low tree cover,  
15 high building density, high impervious surface cover,  
16 and waste heat emissions.

17 (7) EXTREME HEAT.—The term “extreme  
18 heat” means a prolonged period of excessively hot  
19 weather, with temperatures well above climatological  
20 normals for a given location and season.

21 (8) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
22 “nonprofit organization” means an organization de-  
23 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue  
24 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under sec-  
25 tion 501(a) of such Code.

1           (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2           the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

3           (10) URBAN AREA.—The term “urban area”  
4           has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of  
5           title 23, United States Code.

6           (11) URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN.—The  
7           term “urban forestry master plan” means a stra-  
8           tegic plan that establishes the overall vision, goals,  
9           objectives, and implementation tools to evaluate,  
10          maintain and expand the urban tree canopy with the  
11          intention of building resilience to extreme weather  
12          events, reducing the urban heat island effect, miti-  
13          gating stormwater runoff, reducing nutrient runoff,  
14          addressing air quality, and preserving biodiversity.

15          (12) URBAN TREE CANOPY ASSESSMENT.—The  
16          term “urban tree canopy assessment” means a  
17          measure of a community’s tree canopy coverage as  
18          a percentage of the total land area that serves as a  
19          baseline for setting community tree canopy goals  
20          and measuring progress.

21 **SEC. 4. URBAN HEAT MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT**  
22 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

23          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
24          date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting  
25          through the Office of Community Planning and Develop-



1 ment, in coordination with the Administrator of the Envi-  
2 ronmental Protection Agency, the Chief of the Forest  
3 Service, and the Director of the Climate Program Office  
4 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
5 shall establish an urban heat mitigation and management  
6 grant program to award grants to eligible entities to im-  
7 plement eligible projects.

8 (b) SET-ASIDE.—Not less than 75 percent of the  
9 amounts of covered grants awarded for a fiscal year shall  
10 be awarded to eligible entities to implement projects in a  
11 covered census tract.

12 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 3 percent of  
14 amounts appropriated to carry out this section may  
15 be used to provide technical assistance to eligible en-  
16 tities applying for or implementing a covered grant.

17 (2) PREFERENCE.—In providing technical as-  
18 sistance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall  
19 give preference to eligible entities that intend to  
20 serve communities—

21 (A) located in a covered census tract; or

22 (B) with lower-tree canopy and higher  
23 maximum daytime summer temperatures com-  
24 pared to surrounding communities, as deter-

1           mined by the Secretary, based on publicly avail-  
2           able information.

3           (3) INCLUSIONS.—Technical assistance pro-  
4           vided under paragraph (1) may include—

5                   (A) assistance developing a complete appli-  
6                   cation;

7                   (B) financial analysis and budget develop-  
8                   ment;

9                   (C) support for project integration;

10                  (D) assessment of project readiness; and

11                  (E) technical assistance implementing ac-  
12                  tivities once a covered grant is received.

13           (d) APPLICATION.—

14                  (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a  
15                  covered grant shall submit to the Secretary an appli-  
16                  cation, at such time and in such manner as required  
17                  by the Secretary in guidance, that includes, at a  
18                  minimum—

19                          (A) how the eligible entity will use the cov-  
20                          ered grant;

21                          (B) how the eligible projects funded will  
22                          combat extreme heat or excess urban heat ef-  
23                          fects and improve quality of life for impacted  
24                          communities;

25                          (C) a robust engagement plan that—

1 (i) outlines how the eligible entity will  
2 meaningfully and inclusively engage with  
3 the communities in which the eligible  
4 projects take place throughout project im-  
5 plementation; and

6 (ii) demonstrates how the eligible enti-  
7 ty plans to—

8 (I) foster meaningful, reciprocal  
9 relationships with community-based  
10 organizations;

11 (II) engage in respectful, good-  
12 faith consultation with diverse com-  
13 munity stakeholders; and

14 (III) empower members of the  
15 community to participate in decision  
16 making; and

17 (D) how the eligible entity will address the  
18 intersection between human health, environ-  
19 ment, and built environment.

20 (2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after  
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
22 shall issue the guidance described in paragraph (1).

23 (e) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
25 graph (2), the Federal share of the cost of an eligi-

1       ble project carried out with amounts from a covered  
2       grant shall be not more than 80 percent.

3           (2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may increase the  
4       maximum Federal share described in paragraph (1)  
5       from 80 percent to 100 percent for an eligible  
6       project carried out by an eligible entity that dem-  
7       onstrates economic hardship, as determined by the  
8       Secretary.

9       (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding covered grants, the Sec-  
10      retary shall give priority to an eligible entity that serves—

11           (1) a community located in a covered census  
12      tract; or

13           (2) a community with lower tree canopy and  
14      higher maximum daytime summer temperatures  
15      compared to surrounding communities, as deter-  
16      mined by the Secretary, based on publicly available  
17      information.

18      (g) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall  
19      submit an annual report to Congress that identifies the  
20      recipients of covered grants and the geographic and eco-  
21      nomic distribution of those recipients.

22      (h) OVERSIGHT.—

23           (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to ensure the effec-  
24      tiveness of projects that are carried out using cov-  
25      ered grants, the Secretary shall use not more than

1       5 percent of any amounts appropriated to carry out  
2       this section to establish an oversight board to help—

3               (A) select recipients of covered grants; and

4               (B) review the progress made by recipients  
5       of covered grants on a yearly basis.

6       (2) EVALUATION.—The board established under  
7       paragraph (1) shall—

8               (A) develop and apply a rubric to evaluate  
9       the success of projects carried out using covered  
10       grants in reaching their objective to combat the  
11       causes and effects of excess urban heat; and

12              (B) serve the Secretary in an advisory ca-  
13       pacity.

14       (3) MEMBERSHIP.—

15              (A) IN GENERAL.—Members of the board  
16       established under paragraph (1) may include—

17                      (i) representatives from the Environ-  
18       mental Protection Agency, particularly  
19       from the Heat Island Reduction Program;

20                      (ii) representatives from the Depart-  
21       ment of Health and Human Services, par-  
22       ticularly from the Office of Climate  
23       Change and Health Equity;

24                      (iii) representatives from the Depart-  
25       ment of Energy, particularly from the Of-

1           fice of Energy Efficiency and Renewable  
2           Energy;

3           (iv) representatives from the Depart-  
4           ment of Agriculture, particularly from the  
5           Urban and Community Forestry Program;

6           (v) subject to subparagraph (B), rep-  
7           resentatives from nonprofit organizations  
8           with proven leadership in urban heat miti-  
9           gation or environmental justice, as deter-  
10          mined by the Secretary; and

11          (vi) subject to subparagraph (B), rep-  
12          resentatives from academia and research  
13          studying the effects of and mitigation of  
14          excess urban heat, environmental justice,  
15          or related areas.

16          (B) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—In order  
17          to be a member of the board established under  
18          paragraph (1), a representative described in  
19          clause (v) or (vi) of subparagraph (A) of this  
20          paragraph shall certify that the representative  
21          does not possess any conflict of interest with re-  
22          spect to projects being considered for a covered  
23          grant or being carried out using a covered  
24          grant.

1       (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2033.

○