

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8448

To establish an Office of Energy Affordability within the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2026

Mr. LAWLER (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish an Office of Energy Affordability within the Department of Energy, 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 “Energy Affordability
5 and Reliability Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF ENERGY AFFORD-**
7 **ABILITY.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
10 Energy shall establish within the Office of Policy of the

1 Department of Energy an office to be known as the Office
2 of Energy Affordability (in this section referred to as the
3 “Office”).

4 (b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Office shall be to—

5 (1) review each proposed regulation or policy of
6 the Department of Energy that would require, or
7 otherwise relates to, a transition between types of
8 energy or sources of energy, to determine whether
9 such regulation or policy—

10 (A) incorporates transparent and rigorous
11 analysis of the short-term and long-term effects
12 of such regulation or policy on energy afford-
13 ability and on related economic costs;

14 (B) includes strategies to ensure that such
15 regulation or policy does not negatively affect
16 energy affordability and that related economic
17 costs are mitigated; and

18 (C) supports reliable access to energy by
19 consumers and promotes cost-effective energy
20 solutions; and

21 (2) provide advice and guidance based on the
22 results of such review.

23 (c) TIMELY REVIEW; NO PREVENTION OF
24 ISSUANCE.—In carrying out the duties under subsection
25 (b), the Office—

1 (1) shall complete the review of each proposed
2 regulation or policy pursuant to such subsection by
3 not later than 30 days after the date on which the
4 Office receives notice of such proposed regulation or
5 policy; and

6 (2) may not prevent the issuance of any regula-
7 tion or policy.

8 (d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—On an annual basis, the Of-
9 fice shall submit to the appropriate congressional commit-
10 tees a report containing, with respect to any regulation
11 or policy specified in subsection (b) proposed to be issued
12 or issued during the year covered by such report—

13 (1) an analysis of the effects specified in sub-
14 section (b)(1)(A); and

15 (2) recommendations for the strategies specified
16 in subsection (b)(1)(B).

17 (e) REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF OFFICE.—Not
18 later than 5 years after the date on which the Office is
19 established under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy
20 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
21 a report on the effectiveness of the Office.

22 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

23 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
24 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
25 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Energy and Com-
2 merce and the Committee on Appropriations of
3 the House of Representatives; and

4 (B) the Committee on Energy and Natural
5 Resources and the Committee on Appropria-
6 tions of the Senate.

7 (2) ENERGY AFFORDABILITY.—The term “en-
8 ergy affordability” means the cost of energy trans-
9 mitted to a residential, commercial, or industrial
10 consumer proportional to the income or operational
11 costs of such consumer.

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