

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 388

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act with respect to the implementation of building codes, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2025

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act 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”.

6 **SEC. 2. PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.**

7 Section 203(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
8 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) is
9 amended—

1 (1) by striking the subsection heading and in-
 2 serting “DEFINITIONS”;

3 (2) by striking “In this section, the term” and
 4 inserting the following:

5 “(2) SMALL IMPOVERISHED COMMUNITY.—The
 6 term”; and

7 (3) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so
 8 designated, “In this section:

9 “(1) LATEST PUBLISHED EDITIONS.—The term
 10 ‘latest public editions’ means the 2 most recently
 11 published editions of relevant consensus-based codes,
 12 specifications, and standards.”.

13 **SEC. 3. HAZARD MITIGATION REVOLVING LOAN FUND PRO-**
 14 **GRAM.**

15 Section 205(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
 16 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5135(f))
 17 is amended—

18 (1) by striking paragraph (5); and

19 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and
 20 (8) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively.

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

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
 2 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal
 3 Emergency Management Agency.

4 (2) RESIDENTIAL RESILIENT RETROFIT.—The
 5 term “residential resilient retrofit”—

6 (A) means a project that—

7 (i) is designed to increase the resil-
 8 ience of an existing home or residence
 9 using mitigation measures that the Admin-
 10 istrator determines reduce damage and im-
 11 pacts from natural disaster hazards and
 12 risks that are most likely to occur in the
 13 area where the home is located; and

14 (ii) to the extent applicable, are con-
 15 sistent with—

16 (I) the 2 most recently published
 17 editions of relevant consensus-based
 18 codes, specifications, and standards,
 19 including any amendments made to
 20 those codes by State, local, or Indian
 21 tribal governments; and

22 (II) specifications and standards
 23 that, for the purpose of protecting
 24 health, safety, and general welfare of
 25 users of buildings against disasters—

1 (aa) incorporate the latest
2 hazard-resistant designs; and

3 (bb) establish criteria for the
4 design, construction, and maintenance of residential structures
5 and facilities that may be eligible
6 for assistance under the Robert
7 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
8 Emergency Assistance Act (42
9 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and
10

11 (B) includes—

12 (i) elevations of homes and utilities
13 within and around structures to mitigate
14 damages;

15 (ii) floodproofing measures;

16 (iii) the construction of tornado safe
17 rooms;

18 (iv) seismic retrofits;

19 (v) wildfire retrofit and mitigation
20 measures;

21 (vi) wind retrofits, including roof re-
22 placements, hurricane straps, and tie-
23 downs; and

1 (vii) any other measure that meet the
2 requirements of subparagraph (A), as de-
3 termined by the Administrator.

4 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall
5 carry out a residential resilience pilot program through the
6 program established under section 203 of the Robert T.
7 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 5133) to make available assistance to States
9 and local governments for the purpose of providing grants
10 to individuals for residential resilience retrofits.

11 (c) AMOUNT OF FUNDS.—The Administrator may
12 use not more than 10 percent of the assistance made avail-
13 able to applicants on an annual basis under section 203
14 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
15 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) to provide assistance
16 under this section.

17 (d) TIMELINE.—With respect to the pilot program
18 carried out under subsection (b), the Administrator
19 shall—

20 (1) establish the pilot program not later than 1
21 year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

22 (2) terminate the pilot program on September
23 30, 2030.

24 (e) PRIORITY.—In carrying out the pilot program
25 under this section, the Administrator shall ensure that a

1 State or local government receiving assistance under the
2 pilot program provides grants to individuals that dem-
3 onstrate financial need.

4 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date
5 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit
6 to the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
7 mental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Trans-
8 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
9 tives a report that includes—

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

12 (2) a detailed compilation of results achieved by
13 the grant awards and projects carried out under this
14 section, including the number of homes receiving ret-
15 rofits, the types and average costs of retrofits, and
16 demographic information for participants in the pilot
17 program;

18 (3) an estimate of avoidance in disaster impacts
19 and Federal disaster payments as a result of the
20 grant investments carried out under this section,
21 and whether that avoidance is different than other
22 mitigation projects funded under section 203 of the
23 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
24 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133); and

1 (4) any identified implementation challenges
2 and recommendations for improvements to the pilot
3 program established under this section.

4 (g) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall only apply
5 with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date
6 of enactment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

8 Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this
9 Act shall be construed to affect any program other than
10 the predisaster hazard mitigation program or the hazard
11 mitigation revolving loan fund program established under
12 section 203 or 205, respectively, of the Robert T. Stafford
13 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
14 5133, 5135).

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