

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 695

To provide for a green building certification program as part of the Energy Star program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2009

Mr. WEINER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To provide for a green building certification program as part of the Energy Star program.

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. GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

5 (1) GREEN BUILDING.—The term “green build-  
6 ing” means a building constructed taking into ac-  
7 count sustainable site development, water savings,  
8 energy efficiency, materials selection, indoor environ-  
9 mental quality, life-cycle concerns of building mate-  
10 rials, and transit and density-oriented development.

1           (2) LIFE-CYCLE CONCERNS OF BUILDING MATE-  
2           RIALS.—The term “life-cycle concerns of building  
3           materials” includes emissions and environmental im-  
4           pact related to the production and use of building  
5           materials from source to end of use.

6           (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy  
7           shall expand the Energy Star program to include the cer-  
8           tification, beginning not later than 2 years after the date  
9           of enactment of this Act, of buildings as green buildings.  
10          Such expanded program shall build on the existing Energy  
11          Star building efficiency program, and a building certified  
12          under such program shall receive an Energy Star label.

13          (c) STUDY.—In creating the program under this sec-  
14          tion, the Secretary of Energy shall study and provide rec-  
15          ommendations to—

16                (1) streamline the certification process with  
17                other required municipal certification submissions to  
18                maximum extent feasible;

19                (2) develop an online certification program; and

20                (3) design a program that will allow those with-  
21                out green building expertise to certify their building  
22                without being required to have greater knowledge  
23                than the building’s parameters.

24          (d) PROGRAM DESIGN.—The program under this sec-  
25          tion shall be designed—

1           (1) based on the recommendations made under  
2       subsection (c);

3           (2) to set minimum energy efficiency standards,  
4       and other standards comparable to standards of the  
5       United States Green Building Council Leadership in  
6       Energy and Environmental Design Green Building  
7       Rating Program;

8           (3) to establish separate regional certification  
9       standards;

10          (4) to use procedures that are streamlined and  
11       compatible with any other required municipal certifi-  
12       cation or energy efficiency assessment submissions  
13       procedures and databases, to maximum extent fea-  
14       sible;

15          (5) to have certifications integrated into exist-  
16       ing Energy Star building program energy efficiency  
17       assessment documents and databases to maximum  
18       extent feasible;

19          (6) to be primarily an online certification pro-  
20       gram that minimizes the need for paper forms and  
21       permits automated calculations and approval and  
22       gives real-time feedback on meeting certification pa-  
23       rameters;

24          (7) to allow those without green building exper-  
25       tise to certify their building without being required

1 to have greater knowledge than the building's pa-  
2 rameters;

3 (8) to include separate certification programs  
4 for offices, schools, residential buildings (including  
5 single-family homes), commercial and retail build-  
6 ings, high-rise buildings, manufacturing buildings,  
7 and any other building types as the Secretary of En-  
8 ergy considers appropriate;

9 (9) to include renovation certification programs  
10 for all building types described in paragraph (8);

11 (10) to include a public awareness campaign  
12 component pursuant to section 324A(c) of the En-  
13 ergy Policy and Conservation Act;

14 (11) to integrate the results of the high-per-  
15 formance building assessment under section 914 of  
16 the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as applicable, when  
17 available; and

18 (12) to require review and updating of the cer-  
19 tification program to meet market needs at least  
20 once every 5 years.

21 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON PROGRAM DESIGN.—

22 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this  
23 Act, the Secretary of Energy shall transmit to the Con-  
24 gress a report setting forth the design of the expanded  
25 program under this section. Such report shall include an

1 explanation of how each of the program design require-  
2 ments under subsection (d) have been incorporated into  
3 the program.

4 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
5 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of En-  
6 ergy for carrying out this section—

- 7 (1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;  
8 (2) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and  
9 (3) \$2,000,000 for each fiscal year thereafter.

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