

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7325

To make grants to support online training of residential contractors and rebates for the energy efficiency upgrades of homes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2020

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mrs. HAYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To make grants to support online training of residential contractors and rebates for the energy efficiency upgrades of homes, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “HOPE for HOMES Act of 2020”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—HOPE TRAINING

Sec. 101. Notice for HOPE Qualification training and grants.
 Sec. 102. Course criteria.
 Sec. 103. HOPE Qualification.
 Sec. 104. Grants.
 Sec. 105. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—HOME ENERGY SAVINGS RETROFIT REBATE PROGRAM

Sec. 201. Establishment of Home Energy Savings Retrofit Rebate Program.
 Sec. 202. Partial system rebates.
 Sec. 203. State administered rebates.
 Sec. 204. Special provisions for moderate income households.
 Sec. 205. Evaluation reports to Congress.
 Sec. 206. Administration.
 Sec. 207. Treatment of rebates.
 Sec. 208. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Appointment of personnel.
 Sec. 302. Maintenance of funding.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION.**—The term
 4 “contractor certification” means an industry recog-
 5 nized certification that may be obtained by a resi-
 6 dential contractor to advance the expertise and edu-
 7 cation of the contractor in energy efficiency retrofits
 8 of residential buildings, including—

9 (A) a certification provided by—

10 (i) the Building Performance Insti-
 11 tute;

12 (ii) the Air Conditioning Contractors
 13 of America;

14 (iii) the National Comfort Institute;

1 (iv) the North American Technician
2 Excellence;

3 (v) RESNET;

4 (vi) the United States Green Building
5 Council; or

6 (vii) Home Innovation Research Labs;

7 and

8 (B) any other certification the Secretary
9 determines appropriate for purposes of the
10 Home Energy Savings Retrofit Rebate Pro-
11 gram.

12 (2) CONTRACTOR COMPANY.—The term “con-
13 tractor company” means a company—

14 (A) the business of which is to provide
15 services to residential building owners with re-
16 spect to HVAC systems, insulation, air sealing,
17 or other services that are approved by the Sec-
18 retary;

19 (B) that holds the licenses and insurance
20 required by the State in which the company
21 provides services; and

22 (C) that provides services for which a par-
23 tial system rebate, measured performance re-
24 bate, or modeled performance rebate may be

1 provided pursuant to the Home Energy Savings
2 Retrofit Rebate Program.

3 (3) ENERGY AUDIT.—The term “energy audit”
4 means an inspection, survey, and analysis of the en-
5 ergy use of a building, including the building enve-
6 lope and HVAC system.

7 (4) HOME.—The term “home” means a resi-
8 dential dwelling unit in a building with no more than
9 4 dwelling units that—

10 (A) is located in the United States;

11 (B) was constructed before the date of en-
12 actment of this Act; and

13 (C) is occupied at least 6 months out of
14 the year.

15 (5) HOME ENERGY SAVINGS RETROFIT REBATE
16 PROGRAM.—The term “Home Energy Savings Ret-
17 rofit Rebate Program” means the Home Energy
18 Savings Retrofit Rebate Program established under
19 section 201.

20 (6) HOMEOWNER.—The term “homeowner”
21 means the owner of an owner-occupied home or a
22 tenant-occupied home.

23 (7) HOME VALUATION CERTIFICATION.—The
24 term “home valuation certification” means the fol-
25 lowing home assessments:

1 (A) Home Energy Score.

2 (B) PEARL Certification.

3 (C) National Green Building Standard.

4 (D) LEED.

5 (E) Any other assessment the Secretary
6 determines to be appropriate.

7 (8) HOPE QUALIFICATION.—The term “HOPE
8 Qualification” means the qualification described in
9 section 103.

10 (9) HOPE TRAINING CREDIT.—The term
11 “HOPE training credit” means a HOPE training
12 task credit or a HOPE training supplemental credit.

13 (10) HOPE TRAINING TASK CREDIT.—The
14 term “HOPE training task credit” means a credit
15 described in section 102(a).

16 (11) HOPE TRAINING SUPPLEMENTAL CRED-
17 IT.—The term “HOPE training supplemental cred-
18 it” means a credit described in section 102(b).

19 (12) HVAC SYSTEM.—The term “HVAC sys-
20 tem” means a system—

21 (A) consisting of a heating component, a
22 ventilation component, and an air-conditioning
23 component; and

1 (B) which components may include central
2 air conditioning, a heat pump, a furnace, a boiler,
3 a rooftop unit, and a window unit.

4 (13) MEASURED PERFORMANCE REBATE.—The
5 term “measured performance rebate” means a rebate
6 provided in accordance with section 203 and
7 described in subsection (e) of that section.

8 (14) MODELED PERFORMANCE REBATE.—The
9 term “modeled performance rebate” means a rebate
10 provided in accordance with section 203 and described
11 in subsection (d) of that section.

12 (15) MODERATE INCOME.—The term “moderate
13 income” means, with respect to a household, a
14 household with an annual income that is less than
15 80 percent of the area median income, as determined
16 annually by the Department of Housing and
17 Urban Development.

18 (16) PARTIAL SYSTEM REBATE.—The term
19 “partial system rebate” means a rebate provided in
20 accordance with section 202.

21 (17) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
22 means the Secretary of Energy.

23 (18) STATE.—The term “State” includes—

24 (A) a State;

25 (B) the District of Columbia;

- 1 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
- 2 (D) Guam;
- 3 (E) American Samoa;
- 4 (F) the Commonwealth of the Northern
- 5 Mariana Islands;
- 6 (G) the United States Virgin Islands; and
- 7 (H) any other territory or possession of the
- 8 United States.

9 (19) STATE ENERGY OFFICE.—The term “State
 10 energy office” means the office or agency of a State
 11 responsible for developing the State energy conserva-
 12 tion plan for the State under section 362 of the En-
 13 ergy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6322).

14 **TITLE I—HOPE TRAINING**

15 **SEC. 101. NOTICE FOR HOPE QUALIFICATION TRAINING** 16 **AND GRANTS.**

17 Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment
 18 of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Director of
 19 the Building Technologies Office of the Department of
 20 Energy, shall issue a notice that includes—

- 21 (1) criteria established under section 102 for
- 22 approval by the Secretary of courses for which cred-
- 23 its may be issued for purposes of a HOPE Qualifica-
- 24 tion;

- 1 (2) a list of courses that meet such criteria and
2 are so approved; and
3 (3) information on how individuals and entities
4 may apply for grants under this title.

5 **SEC. 102. COURSE CRITERIA.**

6 (a) HOPE TRAINING TASK CREDIT.—

7 (1) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish
8 criteria for approval of a course for which a credit,
9 to be known as a HOPE training task credit, may
10 be issued, including that such course—

11 (A) is equivalent to at least 30 hours in
12 total course time;

13 (B) is accredited by the Interstate Renew-
14 able Energy Council or is determined to be
15 equivalent by the Secretary;

16 (C) is, with respect to a particular job,
17 aligned with the relevant National Renewable
18 Energy Laboratory Job Task Analysis, or other
19 credentialing program foundation that helps
20 identify the necessary core knowledge areas,
21 critical work functions, or skills, as approved by
22 the Secretary;

23 (D) has established learning objectives;
24 and

1 (E) includes, as the Secretary determines
2 appropriate, an appropriate assessment of such
3 learning objectives that may include a final
4 exam, to be proctored on-site or through remote
5 proctoring, or an in-person field exam.

6 (2) INCLUDED COURSES.—The Secretary shall
7 approve one or more courses that meet the criteria
8 described in paragraph (1) for training related to—

9 (A) contractor certification;

10 (B) energy auditing or assessment;

11 (C) home energy systems (including HVAC
12 systems);

13 (D) insulation installation and air leakage
14 control;

15 (E) health and safety regarding the instal-
16 lation of energy efficiency measures or health
17 and safety impacts associated with energy effi-
18 ciency retrofits; and

19 (F) indoor air quality.

20 (b) HOPE TRAINING SUPPLEMENTAL CREDIT CRI-
21 TERIA.—The Secretary shall establish criteria for approval
22 of a course for which a credit, to be known as a HOPE
23 training supplemental credit, may be issued, including
24 that such course provides—

25 (1) training related to—

1 (A) small business success, including man-
2 agement, home energy efficiency software, or
3 general accounting principles;

4 (B) the issuance of a home valuation cer-
5 tification;

6 (C) the use of wifi-enabled technology in
7 an energy efficiency upgrade; or

8 (D) understanding and being able to par-
9 ticipate in the Home Energy Savings Retrofit
10 Rebate Program; and

11 (2) as the Secretary determines appropriate, an
12 appropriate assessment of such training that may in-
13 clude a final exam, to be proctored on-site or
14 through remote proctoring, or an in-person field
15 exam.

16 (c) EXISTING APPROVED COURSES.—The Secretary
17 may approve a course that meets the applicable criteria
18 established under this section that is approved by the ap-
19 plicable State energy office or relevant State agency with
20 oversight authority for residential energy efficiency pro-
21 grams.

22 (d) IN-PERSON AND ONLINE TRAINING.—An online
23 course approved pursuant to this section may be con-
24 ducted in-person, but may not be offered exclusively in-
25 person.

1 **SEC. 103. HOPE QUALIFICATION.**

2 (a) ISSUANCE OF CREDITS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, or an entity
4 authorized by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph
5 (2), may issue—

6 (A) a HOPE training task credit to any
7 individual that completes a course that meets
8 applicable criteria under section 102; and

9 (B) a HOPE training supplemental credit
10 to any individual that completes a course that
11 meets the applicable criteria under section 102.

12 (2) OTHER ENTITIES.—The Secretary may au-
13 thorize a State energy office implementing an au-
14 thorized program under subsection (b)(2), an organi-
15 zation described in section 104(b), and any other en-
16 tity the Secretary determines appropriate, to issue
17 HOPE training credits in accordance with para-
18 graph (1).

19 (b) HOPE QUALIFICATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may certify
21 that an individual has achieved a qualification, to be
22 known as a HOPE Qualification, that indicates that
23 the individual has received at least 3 HOPE training
24 credits, of which at least 2 shall be HOPE training
25 task credits.

1 (2) STATE PROGRAMS.—The Secretary may au-
2 thorize a State energy office to implement a pro-
3 gram to provide HOPE Qualifications in accordance
4 with this title.

5 **SEC. 104. GRANTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the extent
7 amounts are made available in appropriations Acts for
8 such purposes, provide grants to support the training of
9 individuals toward the completion of a HOPE Qualifica-
10 tion.

11 (b) PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide a
13 grant of up to \$20,000 under this section to an or-
14 ganization to provide training online, including es-
15 tablishing, modifying, or maintaining the online sys-
16 tems, staff time, and software and online program
17 management, through a course that meets the appli-
18 cable criteria established under section 102.

19 (2) CRITERIA.—In order to receive a grant
20 under this subsection, an organization shall be—

21 (A) a nonprofit organization;

22 (B) an educational institution; or

23 (C) an organization that has experience
24 providing training to contractors that work with
25 the weatherization assistance program imple-

1 mented under part A of title IV of the Energy
2 Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C.
3 6861 et seq.) or equivalent experience, as deter-
4 mined by the Secretary.

5 (3) ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS.—In addition
6 to any grant provided under paragraph (1), the Sec-
7 retary may provide an organization up to \$5,000 for
8 each additional course for which a HOPE training
9 credit may be issued that is offered by the organiza-
10 tion.

11 (c) CONTRACTOR COMPANY.—The Secretary may
12 provide a grant under this section of \$1,000 per employee
13 to a contractor company, up to a maximum of \$10,000,
14 to reimburse the contractor company for training costs for
15 employees, and any home technology support needed for
16 an employee to receive training pursuant to this section.
17 Grant funds provided under this subsection may be used
18 to support wages of employees during training.

19 (d) TRAINEES.—The Secretary may provide a grant
20 of up to \$1,000 under this section to an individual who
21 receives a HOPE Qualification.

22 (e) STATE ENERGY OFFICE.—The Secretary may
23 provide a grant under this section to a State energy office
24 of up to \$25,000 to implement an authorized program
25 under section 103(b).

1 **SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this title \$500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2020
4 through 2025.

5 **TITLE II—HOME ENERGY SAV-**
6 **INGS RETROFIT REBATE PRO-**
7 **GRAM**

8 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF HOME ENERGY SAVINGS**
9 **RETROFIT REBATE PROGRAM.**

10 The Secretary shall establish a program, to be known
11 as the Home Energy Savings Retrofit Rebate Program,
12 to—

13 (1) provide rebates in accordance with section
14 202; and

15 (2) provide grants to States to carry out pro-
16 grams to provide rebates in accordance with section
17 203.

18 **SEC. 202. PARTIAL SYSTEM REBATES.**

19 (a) AMOUNT OF REBATE.—In carrying out the Home
20 Energy Savings Retrofit Rebate Program, and subject to
21 the availability of appropriations for such purpose, the
22 Secretary shall provide a homeowner a rebate, to be known
23 as a partial system rebate, of, except as provided in section
24 204, up to—

1 (1) \$800 for the purchase and installation of
2 insulation and air sealing within a home of the
3 homeowner; and

4 (2) \$1,500 for the purchase and installation of
5 insulation and air sealing within a home of the
6 homeowner and replacement of an HVAC system,
7 the heating component of an HVAC system, or the
8 cooling component of an HVAC system, of such
9 home.

10 (b) SPECIFICATIONS.—

11 (1) COST.—The amount of a partial system re-
12 bate provided under this section shall, except as pro-
13 vided in section 204, not exceed 30 percent of cost
14 of the purchase and installation of insulation and air
15 sealing under subsection (a)(1), or the purchase and
16 installation of insulation and air sealing and replace-
17 ment of an HVAC system, the heating component of
18 an HVAC system, or the cooling component of an
19 HVAC system, under subsection (a)(2). Labor may
20 be included in such cost but may not exceed—

21 (A) in the case of a rebate under sub-
22 section (a)(1), 50 percent of such cost; and

23 (B) in the case of a rebate under sub-
24 section (a)(2), 25 percent of such cost.

1 (2) REPLACEMENT OF AN HVAC SYSTEM, THE
2 HEATING COMPONENT OF AN HVAC SYSTEM, OR THE
3 COOLING COMPONENT OF AN HVAC SYSTEM.—In
4 order to qualify for a partial system rebate described
5 in subsection (a)(2)—

6 (A) any HVAC system, heating component
7 of an HVAC system, or cooling component of
8 an HVAC system installed shall be Energy Star
9 Most Efficient certified;

10 (B) installation of such an HVAC system,
11 the heating component of an HVAC system, or
12 the cooling component of an HVAC system,
13 shall be completed in accordance with standards
14 specified by the Secretary that are at least as
15 stringent as the applicable guidelines of the Air
16 Conditioning Contractors of America that are in
17 effect on the date of enactment of this Act;

18 (C) if ducts are present, replacement of an
19 HVAC system, the heating component of an
20 HVAC system, or the cooling component of an
21 HVAC system shall include duct sealing; and

22 (D) the installation of insulation and air
23 sealing shall occur within 6 months of the re-
24 placement of the HVAC system, the heating

1 component of an HVAC system, or the cooling
2 component of an HVAC system.

3 (c) ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES FOR CONTRACTORS.—

4 In carrying out the Home Energy Savings Retrofit Rebate
5 Program, the Secretary may provide a \$250 payment to
6 a contractor per home for which—

7 (1) a partial system rebate is provided under
8 this section for the installation of insulation and air
9 sealing, or installation of insulation and air sealing
10 and replacement of an HVAC system, the heating
11 component of an HVAC system, or the cooling com-
12 ponent of an HVAC system, by the contractor;

13 (2) the applicable homeowner has signed and
14 submitted to the Secretary a release form made
15 available pursuant to section 206(b) authorizing the
16 contractor access to information in the utility bills of
17 the homeowner; and

18 (3) the contractor inputs, into the Department
19 of Energy's Building Performance Database—

20 (A) the energy usage for the home for the
21 12 months preceding, and the 24 months fol-
22 lowing, the installation of insulation and air
23 sealing or installation of insulation and air seal-
24 ing and replacement of an HVAC system, the

1 heating component of an HVAC system, or the
2 cooling component of an HVAC system;

3 (B) a description of such installation or in-
4 stallation and replacement; and

5 (C) the total cost to the homeowner for
6 such installation or installation and replace-
7 ment.

8 (d) PROCESS.—

9 (1) FORMS; REBATE PROCESSING SYSTEM.—

10 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
11 of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the
12 Secretary of the Treasury, shall—

13 (A) develop and make available rebate
14 forms required to receive a partial system re-
15 bate under this section;

16 (B) establish a Federal rebate processing
17 system which shall serve as a database and in-
18 formation technology system that will allow
19 homeowners to submit required rebate forms;
20 and

21 (C) establish a website that provides infor-
22 mation on partial system rebates provided
23 under this section, including how to determine
24 whether particular measures qualify for a re-

1 bate under this section and how to receive such
2 a rebate.

3 (2) SUBMISSION OF FORMS.—In order to re-
4 ceive a partial system rebate under this section, a
5 homeowner shall submit the required rebate forms,
6 and any other information the Secretary determines
7 appropriate, to the Federal rebate processing system
8 established pursuant to paragraph (1).

9 (e) FUNDING.—

10 (1) LIMITATION.—For each fiscal year, the Sec-
11 retary may not use more than 50 percent of the
12 amounts made available to carry out this title to
13 carry out this section.

14 (2) ALLOCATION.—The Secretary shall allocate
15 amounts made available to carry out this section for
16 partial system rebates among the States using the
17 same formula as is used to allocate funds for States
18 under part D of title III of the Energy Policy and
19 Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.).

20 **SEC. 203. STATE ADMINISTERED REBATES.**

21 (a) FUNDING.—In carrying out the Home Energy
22 Savings Retrofit Rebate Program, and subject to the
23 availability of appropriations for such purpose, the Sec-
24 retary shall provide grants to States to carry out programs
25 to provide rebates in accordance with this section.

1 (b) STATE PARTICIPATION.—

2 (1) PLAN.—In order to receive a grant under
3 this section a State shall submit to the Secretary an
4 application that includes a plan to implement a
5 State program that meets the minimum criteria
6 under subsection (c).

7 (2) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60 days after
8 receipt of a completed application for a grant under
9 this section, the Secretary shall either approve the
10 application or provide to the applicant an expla-
11 nation for denying the application.

12 (c) MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR STATE PROGRAMS.—
13 Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of
14 this Act, the Secretary shall establish and publish min-
15 imum criteria for a State program to meet to qualify for
16 funding under this section, including—

17 (1) that the State program be carried out by
18 the applicable State energy office or its designee;

19 (2) that a rebate be provided under a State pro-
20 gram only for a home energy efficiency retrofit
21 that—

22 (A) is completed by a contractor who
23 meets minimum training requirements and cer-
24 tification requirements set forth by the Sec-
25 retary;

1 (B) includes installation of one or more
2 home energy efficiency retrofit measures for a
3 home that together are modeled to achieve, or
4 are shown to achieve, a reduction in home en-
5 ergy use of 20 percent or more from the base-
6 line energy use of the home;

7 (C) does not include installation of any
8 measure that the Secretary determines does not
9 improve the thermal energy performance of the
10 home, such as a pool pump, pool heater, spa, or
11 EV charger; and

12 (D) includes, after installation of the appli-
13 cable home energy efficiency retrofit measures,
14 a test-out procedure conducted in accordance
15 with guidelines issued by the Secretary of such
16 measures to ensure—

17 (i) the safe operation of all systems
18 post retrofit; and

19 (ii) that all improvements are included
20 in, and have been installed according to—

21 (I) manufacturers installation
22 specifications; and

23 (II) all applicable State and local
24 codes or equivalent standards ap-
25 proved by the Secretary;

1 (3) that the State program utilize—

2 (A) for purposes of modeled performance
3 rebates, modeling software approved by the Sec-
4 retary for determining and documenting the
5 baseline energy use of a home and the reduc-
6 tions in home energy use resulting from the im-
7 plementation of a home energy efficiency ret-
8 rofit; and

9 (B) for purposes of measured performance
10 rebates, methods and procedures approved by
11 the Secretary for determining and documenting
12 the baseline energy use of a home and the re-
13 ductions in home energy use resulting from the
14 implementation of a home energy efficiency ret-
15 rofit, including methods and procedures for use
16 of advanced metering infrastructure, weather-
17 normalized data, and open source standards, to
18 measure such baseline energy use and such re-
19 ductions in home energy use;

20 (4) that the State program include implementa-
21 tion of a quality assurance program—

22 (A) to ensure that home energy efficiency
23 retrofits are achieving the stated level of energy
24 savings, that efficiency measures were installed
25 correctly, and that work is performed in accord-

1 ance with procedures developed by the Sec-
2 retary, including through quality-control inspec-
3 tions for a portion of home energy efficiency
4 retrofits completed by each applicable con-
5 tractor; and

6 (B) under which a quality-control inspec-
7 tion of a home energy efficiency retrofit is per-
8 formed by a quality assurance provider who—

9 (i) is independent of the contractor
10 for such retrofit; and

11 (ii) will confirm that such contractor
12 is a contractor who meets minimum train-
13 ing requirements and certification require-
14 ments set forth by the Secretary;

15 (5) that the State program include require-
16 ments for a homeowner, contractor, or rebate
17 aggregator to claim a rebate, including that the
18 homeowner, contractor, or rebate aggregator submit
19 any applicable forms approved by the Secretary to
20 the State, including a copy of the certificate pro-
21 vided by the applicable contractor certifying pro-
22 jected or measured reduction of home energy use;

23 (6) that the State program may include require-
24 ments for an entity to be eligible to serve as a rebate

1 aggregator to facilitate the delivery of rebates to
2 homeowners or contractors;

3 (7) that the State program include procedures
4 for a homeowner to transfer the right to claim a re-
5 bate to the contractor performing the applicable
6 home energy efficiency retrofit or to a rebate
7 aggregator that works with the contractor; and

8 (8) that the State program provide that a
9 homeowner, contractor, or rebate aggregator may
10 claim more than one rebate under the State pro-
11 gram, and may claim a rebate under the State pro-
12 gram after receiving a partial system rebate under
13 section 202, provided that no 2 rebates may be pro-
14 vided with respect to a home using the same baseline
15 energy use of such home.

16 (d) MODELED PERFORMANCE REBATES.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a State pro-
18 gram under this section, a State may provide a
19 homeowner, contractor, or rebate aggregator a re-
20 bate, to be known as a modeled performance rebate,
21 for an energy audit of a home and a home energy
22 efficiency retrofit that is projected, using modeling
23 software approved by the Secretary, to reduce home
24 energy use by at least 20 percent.

25 (2) AMOUNT.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
2 section 204, and subject to subparagraph (B),
3 the amount of a modeled performance rebate
4 provided under a State program shall be equal
5 to 50 percent of the cost of the applicable en-
6 ergy audit of a home and home energy effi-
7 ciency retrofit, including the cost of diagnostic
8 procedures, labor, reporting, and modeling.

9 (B) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in
10 section 204, with respect to an energy audit
11 and home energy efficiency retrofit that is pro-
12 jected to reduce home energy use by—

13 (i) at least 20 percent, but less than
14 40 percent, the maximum amount of a
15 modeled performance rebate shall be
16 \$2,000; and

17 (ii) at least 40 percent, the maximum
18 amount of a modeled performance rebate
19 shall be \$4,000.

20 (e) MEASURED PERFORMANCE REBATES.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a State pro-
22 gram under this section, a State may provide a
23 homeowner, contractor, or rebate aggregator a re-
24 bate, to be known as a measured performance re-
25 bate, for a home energy efficiency retrofit that re-

duces home energy use by at least 20 percent as measured using methods and procedures approved by the Secretary.

(2) AMOUNT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in section 204, and subject to subparagraph (B), the amount of a measured performance rebate provided under a State program shall be equal to 50 percent of the cost, including the cost of diagnostic procedures, labor, reporting, and energy measurement, of the applicable home energy efficiency retrofit.

(B) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in section 204, with respect to a home energy efficiency retrofit that is measured as reducing home energy use by—

(i) at least 20 percent, but less than 40 percent, the maximum amount of a measured performance rebate shall be \$2,000; and

(ii) at least 40 percent, the maximum amount of a measured performance rebate shall be \$4,000.

(f) COORDINATION OF REBATE AND EXISTING STATE-SPONSORED OR UTILITY-SPONSORED PRO-

1 GRAMS.—A State that receives a grant under this section
2 is encouraged to work with State agencies, energy utilities,
3 nonprofits, and other entities—

4 (1) to assist in marketing the availability of the
5 rebates under the applicable State program;

6 (2) to coordinate with utility or State managed
7 financing programs;

8 (3) to assist in implementation of the applicable
9 State program, including installation of home energy
10 efficiency retrofits; and

11 (4) to coordinate with existing quality assur-
12 ance programs.

13 (g) ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT.—

14 (1) REVIEW OF APPROVED MODELING SOFT-
15 WARE.—The Secretary shall, on an annual basis, list
16 and review all modeling software approved for use in
17 determining and documenting the reductions in
18 home energy use for purposes of modeled perform-
19 ance rebates under subsection (d). In approving such
20 modeling software each year, the Secretary shall en-
21 sure that modeling software approved for a year will
22 result in modeling of energy efficiency gains for any
23 type of home energy efficiency retrofit that is at
24 least as substantial as the modeling of energy effi-
25 ciency gains for such type of home energy efficiency

1 retrofit using the modeling software approved for
2 the previous year.

3 (2) OVERSIGHT.—If the Secretary determines
4 that a State is not implementing a State program
5 that was approved pursuant to subsection (b) and
6 that meets the minimum criteria under subsection
7 (c), the Secretary may, after providing the State a
8 period of at least 90 days to meet such criteria,
9 withhold grant funds under this section from the
10 State.

11 **SEC. 204. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR MODERATE INCOME**
12 **HOUSEHOLDS.**

13 (a) CERTIFICATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish
14 procedures for certifying that the household of a home-
15 owner is moderate income for purposes of this section.

16 (b) PERCENTAGES.—Subject to subsection (c), for
17 households of homeowners that are certified pursuant to
18 the procedures established under subsection (a) as mod-
19 erate income the—

20 (1) amount of a partial system rebate under
21 section 202 shall not exceed 60 percent of the appli-
22 cable purchase and installation costs described in
23 section 202(b)(1); and

24 (2) amount of—

1 (A) a modeled performance rebate under
2 section 203 provided shall be equal to 80 per-
3 cent of the applicable costs described in section
4 203(d)(2)(A); and

5 (B) a measured performance rebate under
6 section 203 provided shall be equal to 80 per-
7 cent of the applicable costs described in section
8 203(e)(2)(A).

9 (c) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—For households of home-
10 owners that are certified pursuant to the procedures estab-
11 lished under subsection (a) as moderate income the max-
12 imum amount—

13 (1) of a partial system rebate—

14 (A) under section 202(a)(1) for the pur-
15 chase and installation of insulation and air seal-
16 ing within a home of the homeowner shall be
17 \$1,600; and

18 (B) under section 202(a)(2) for the pur-
19 chase and installation of insulation and air seal-
20 ing within a home of the homeowner and re-
21 placement of an HVAC system, the heating
22 component of an HVAC system, or the cooling
23 component of an HVAC system, of such home,
24 shall be \$3,000;

1 (2) of a modeled performance rebate under sec-
2 tion 203 for an energy audit and home energy effi-
3 ciency retrofit that is projected to reduce home en-
4 ergy use as described in—

5 (A) section 203(d)(2)(B)(i) shall be
6 \$4,000; and

7 (B) section 203(d)(2)(B)(ii) shall be
8 \$8,000; and

9 (3) of a measured performance rebate under
10 section 203 for a home energy efficiency retrofit that
11 reduces home energy use as described in—

12 (A) section 203(e)(2)(B)(i) shall be
13 \$4,000; and

14 (B) section 203(e)(2)(B)(ii) shall be
15 \$8,000.

16 (d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall establish proce-
17 dures to—

18 (1) provide information to households of home-
19 owners that are certified pursuant to the procedures
20 established under subsection (a) as moderate income
21 regarding other programs and resources relating to
22 assistance for energy efficiency upgrades of homes,
23 including the weatherization assistance program im-
24 plemented under part A of title IV of the Energy

1 Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861
2 et seq.); and

3 (2) refer such households, as applicable, to such
4 other programs and resources.

5 **SEC. 205. EVALUATION REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
7 date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until
8 the termination of the Home Energy Savings Retrofit Re-
9 bate Program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
10 report on the use of funds made available to carry out
11 this title.

12 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
13 section (a) shall include—

14 (1) how many home energy efficiency retrofits
15 have been completed during the previous year under
16 the Home Energy Savings Retrofit Rebate Program;

17 (2) an estimate of how many jobs have been
18 created through the Home Energy Savings Retrofit
19 Rebate Program, directly and indirectly;

20 (3) a description of what steps could be taken
21 to promote further deployment of energy efficiency
22 and renewable energy retrofits;

23 (4) a description of the quantity of verifiable
24 energy savings, homeowner energy bill savings, and

1 other benefits of the Home Energy Savings Retrofit
2 Rebate Program;

3 (5) a description of any waste, fraud, or abuse
4 with respect to funds made available to carry out
5 this title; and

6 (6) any other information the Secretary con-
7 siderers appropriate.

8 **SEC. 206. ADMINISTRATION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide such
10 administrative and technical support to contractors, rebate
11 aggregators, States, and Indian Tribes as is necessary to
12 carry out this title.

13 (b) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—The Secretary
14 shall establish, and make available to a homeowner, or the
15 homeowner’s designated representative, seeking a rebate
16 under this title, release forms authorizing access by the
17 Secretary, or a designated third-party representative to in-
18 formation in the utility bills of the homeowner with appro-
19 priate privacy protections in place.

20 **SEC. 207. TREATMENT OF REBATES.**

21 For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
22 gross income shall not include any rebate received under
23 this title.

1 **SEC. 208. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
3 priated to the Secretary to carry out this title
4 \$1,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through
5 2025, to remain available until expended.

6 (b) TRIBAL ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made
7 available pursuant to subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the
8 Secretary shall work with Indian Tribes and use 2 percent
9 of such amounts to carry out a program or programs that
10 as close as possible reflect the goals, requirements, and
11 provisions of this title, taking into account any factors
12 that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

13 **TITLE III—GENERAL**
14 **PROVISIONS**

15 **SEC. 301. APPOINTMENT OF PERSONNEL.**

16 Notwithstanding the provisions of title 5, United
17 States Code, regarding appointments in the competitive
18 service and General Schedule classifications and pay rates,
19 the Secretary may appoint such professional and adminis-
20 trative personnel as the Secretary considers necessary to
21 carry out this Act.

22 **SEC. 302. MAINTENANCE OF FUNDING.**

23 Each State receiving Federal funds pursuant to this
24 Act shall provide reasonable assurances to the Secretary
25 that it has established policies and procedures designed
26 to ensure that Federal funds provided under this Act will

- 1 be used to supplement, and not to supplant, State and
- 2 local funds.

