

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to improve the weatherization assistance program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to improve the weatherization assistance 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 “Weatherization Assist-
5 ance Program Improvements Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

7 (a) WEATHERIZATION READINESS FUND.—Section
8 414 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42

1 U.S.C. 6864) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(d) WEATHERIZATION READINESS FUND.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
5 lish a fund, to be known as the ‘Weatherization
6 Readiness Fund’, from which the Secretary shall dis-
7 tribute funds to States receiving financial assistance
8 under this part, in accordance with subsection (a).

9 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving
11 funds under paragraph (1) shall use the funds
12 for repairs to dwelling units described in sub-
13 paragraph (B) that will remediate the applica-
14 ble structural defects or hazards of the dwelling
15 unit so that weatherization measures may be in-
16 stalled.

17 “(B) DWELLING UNIT.—A dwelling unit
18 referred to in subparagraph (A) is a dwelling
19 unit occupied by a low-income person that, on
20 inspection pursuant to the program under this
21 part, was found to have significant defects or
22 hazards that prevented the installation of
23 weatherization measures under the program.

24 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
25 addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated

1 under section 422, there is authorized to be appro-
2 priated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary
3 to carry out this subsection.”.

4 (b) STATE AVERAGE COST PER UNIT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 415(c) of the En-
6 ergy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C.
7 6865(c)) is amended—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)—

9 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
10 graph (A)—

11 (I) in the first sentence, by strik-
12 ing “\$6,500” and inserting
13 “\$12,000”; and

14 (II) by striking “(c)(1) Except as
15 provided in paragraphs (3) and (4)”
16 and inserting the following:

17 “(c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
19 graphs (3), (4), and (6)”;

20 (ii) by conforming the margins of sub-
21 paragraphs (A) through (D) to the margin
22 of subparagraph (E);

23 (iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
24 “, and” and inserting “; and”; and

1 (iv) in subparagraph (E), by adding a
2 period at the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (2), in the first sentence,
4 by striking “weatherized (including dwelling
5 units partially weatherized)” and inserting
6 “fully weatherized”;

7 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$3,000”
8 and inserting “\$6,000”;

9 (D) in paragraph (5)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking
11 “(6)(A)(ii)” and inserting “(7)(A)(ii)”; and

12 (ii) by striking “(6)(A)(i)(I)” each
13 place it appears and inserting
14 “(7)(A)(i)(I)”;

15 (E) by redesignating paragraph (6) as
16 paragraph (7); and

17 (F) by inserting after paragraph (5) the
18 following:

19 “(6) LIMIT INCREASE.—The Secretary may in-
20 crease the amount of financial assistance provided
21 per dwelling unit under this part beyond the limit
22 specified in paragraph (1) if the Secretary deter-
23 mines that market conditions require such an in-
24 crease to achieve the purposes of this part.”.

1 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
2 414D(b)(1)(C) of the Energy Conservation and Pro-
3 duction Act (42 U.S.C. 6864d(b)(1)(C)) is amended
4 by striking “415(e)(6)(A)” and inserting
5 “415(e)(7)”.