

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 695

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2009

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

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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