

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5473

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 12, 2023

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Resilient
3 Buildings Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.**

5 Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
6 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(m) LATEST PUBLISHED EDITIONS.—For purposes
9 of subsections (e)(1)(B)(iv) and (g)(10), the term ‘latest
10 published editions’ means, with respect to relevant con-
11 sensus-based codes, specifications, and standards, the 2
12 most recently published editions.”.

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

15 Section 205(f)(5) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
16 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
17 5135(f)(5)) is amended—

18 (1) in the paragraph heading by striking “ES-
19 TABLISHING” and insert “IMPLEMENTING”;

20 (2) by striking “establish” and insert “imple-
21 ment”;

22 (3) by inserting “2” after “latest”; and

23 (4) by inserting “, including any amendments
24 made by State, local, Tribal, or territorial govern-
25 ments to such codes, specifications, and standards,”
26 after “standards”.

1 **SEC. 4. RESIDENTIAL RETROFIT AND RESILIENCE PILOT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

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

11 (b) 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 (c) TIMELINE.—The Administrator shall establish
18 the pilot program under this section not later than 1 year
19 after the date of enactment of this Act and the program
20 shall terminate on September 30, 2026.

21 (d) PRIORITY.—In carrying out the pilot program
22 under this section, the Administrator shall ensure that a
23 State or local government receiving assistance under the
24 program provides grants to individuals that demonstrate
25 financial need.

1 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit
3 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
4 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
5 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
6 ate a report that includes—

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

9 (2) a detailed compilation of results achieved by
10 the grant awards and projects carried out under this
11 section, including the number of homes receiving ret-
12 rofits, the types and average costs of retrofits, demo-
13 graphic information for participants in the program,
14 and estimate avoidance in disaster impacts and Fed-
15 eral disaster payments as a result of the grant in-
16 vestments; and

17 (3) any identified implementation challenges
18 and recommendations for improvements to the pilot
19 program.

20 (f) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall only apply to
21 amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment
22 of this Act.

23 (g) RESIDENTIAL RESILIENT RETROFITS DE-
24 FINED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term
2 “residential resilient retrofits” means a project
3 that—

4 (A) is designed to increase the resilience of
5 an existing home or residence using mitigation
6 measures which the administrator determines
7 reduce damage and impacts from natural dis-
8 aster hazards and risks that are most likely to
9 occur in the area where the home is located;
10 and

11 (B) to the extent applicable, are consistent
12 with the 2 most recently published editions of
13 relevant consensus-based codes, specifications,
14 and standards, including any amendments made
15 by State, local, tribal, or territorial governments
16 to such codes, specifications, and standards
17 that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant de-
18 signs and establish criteria for the design, con-
19 struction, and maintenance of residential struc-
20 tures and facilities that may be eligible for as-
21 sistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
22 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
23 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) for the purpose of pro-
24 tecting the health, safety, and general welfare
25 of the buildings’ users against disasters.

1 (2) INCLUSION.—In this section, the term “res-
2 idential resilient retrofits” includes—

3 (A) elevations of homes and elevations of
4 utilities within and around structures to miti-
5 gate damages;

6 (B) floodproofing measures;

7 (C) the construction of tornado safe rooms;

8 (D) seismic retrofits;

9 (E) wildfire retrofit and mitigation meas-
10 ures;

11 (F) wind retrofits, including roof replace-
12 ments, hurricane straps, and tie-downs; and

13 (G) any other measures that meet the re-
14 quirements of paragraph (1), as determined by
15 the Administrator.

 Passed the House of Representatives December 11,
2023.

Attest:

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,

Clerk.