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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to increase the availability of heating and cooling assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. ANSARI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To amend the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to increase the availability of heating and cooling assistance, 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 “Heating and Cooling
5 Relief Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that:

1 (1) Energy remains unaffordable for low-income
2 households. Nationally, low-income households spend
3 a larger portion of their income on home energy
4 costs than other households. While the average en-
5 ergy burden for non-low-income households is ap-
6 proximately 3 percent, low-income households experi-
7 ence energy burdens that are 3 times higher, with 1
8 in 4 low-income households spending more than 15
9 percent of their income on energy bills. The report
10 for the Household Pulse Survey of the Bureau of the
11 Census, issued on October 3, 2024, noted that, for
12 families with incomes of less than \$35,000 a year,
13 about 54 percent said that they reduced or went
14 without basic household necessities, such as medicine
15 or food, in order to pay an energy bill, for at least
16 one month in the last year.

17 (2) The Low-Income Housing Energy Assist-
18 ance Program was authorized by Congress to reduce
19 home energy burdens with heating and cooling as-
20 sistance. In 2023, only 18 percent of income-eligible
21 households received a subsidy under the program.

22 (3) Climate change is fueling increasingly in-
23 tense winter storms, frequent hurricanes and
24 wildfires, and extreme temperatures. Over the past
25 2 decades, the United States has seen a 135 percent

1 increase in billion-dollar winter disasters, fueled by
2 climate change, rising from 31 of those disasters
3 from 1985 through 2004, to 73 of those disasters
4 from 2005 through 2024.

5 (4) Heat waves are increasingly common as cli-
6 mate change accelerates, and now occur more often
7 in major cities across the United States. According
8 to reports from the National Aeronautics and Space
9 Administration, 2024 was the hottest year on record
10 in Earth's history. The average heat wave season
11 across 50 cities is approximately 46 days longer now
12 than it was in the 1960s, and the American Medical
13 Association found that heat-related deaths have in-
14 creased by over 16 percent per year since 2016.
15 However, in fiscal year 2023, less than 3 percent of
16 income-eligible households received cooling assistance
17 under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance
18 Program, with only 7 percent of funding from the
19 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
20 going toward cooling needs. As a result, the Federal
21 Government should provide further cooling assist-
22 ance for communities in need.

23 (5) As a result of rising home energy bills and
24 insufficient Federal funding for the Low-Income
25 Home Energy Assistance Program, residential utility

1 arrears, or the amount of funds owed by households
2 to their utilities, has climbed to an all-time high of
3 over \$21,000,000,000 as of September 2024, with
4 over 21,000,000 households in debt to electric utili-
5 ties and over 15,000,000 households in debt to nat-
6 ural gas companies. Nearly 1 out of every 7 house-
7 holds is behind on their electric or gas bill.

8 (6) While most States have shutoff protections
9 that prevent utility companies from disconnecting a
10 customer's energy service during the coldest winter
11 months, 10 States have no winter shutoff protec-
12 tions, and 29 States have no summer shutoff protec-
13 tions. Even in certain States with winter or summer
14 shutoff protections, shutoffs continue to increase as
15 the period around the hottest and coldest months
16 lengthens.

17 (7) The loss of home energy service due to high
18 energy burdens is one of the primary reasons for
19 homelessness, especially for families with children.
20 In some housing contexts, loss of home energy serv-
21 ice is a grounds for eviction.

22 (8) The Federal Government should expand and
23 update the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance
24 Program, as part of a robust Federal social safety
25 net, to—

1 (A) protect families against unaffordable
2 home energy bills and home energy shutoffs, by
3 providing sufficient funding and imposing regu-
4 lations where necessary;

5 (B) ensure all low- and moderate-income
6 families have access to affordable home cooling
7 powered by renewable energy, which will enable
8 households to adapt to rising temperatures due
9 to climate change and promote climate and en-
10 ergy resiliency;

11 (C) enhance timely and meaningful public
12 participation and outreach—

13 (i) by including nontraditional part-
14 ners, including home energy suppliers,
15 local educational agencies, and entities car-
16 rying out other programs for low-income
17 people, to assist with signups; and

18 (ii) by adding stronger provisions for
19 presumed eligibility and waiving docu-
20 mentation requirements for eligibility; and

21 (D) further Federal efforts to weatherize
22 housing for low- and moderate-income house-
23 holds, to help families struggling to pay their
24 home energy bills and to meet national clean
25 energy goals.

1 **SEC. 3. FUNDING.**

2 Section 2602 of the Low-Income Home Energy As-
3 sistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) by striking “section 2607A)” and in-
6 serting “section 2604(e), 2605(u), 2607A,
7 2607B, or 2607C)”;

8 (B) by striking “\$2,000,000,000” and all
9 that follows and inserting “such sums as may
10 be necessary, including such sums as may be
11 necessary to enable the States to assist all
12 households that meet the eligibility require-
13 ments established under this title and to enable
14 States to implement home energy affordability
15 measures described in section 2605(b)(3).”;

16 (2) in subsection (e), in the first sentence—

17 (A) by striking “in each fiscal year”;

18 (B) by striking “\$600,000,000” and in-
19 serting “\$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2026,
20 and \$2,000,000,000 plus such additional sums
21 as may be necessary for each fiscal year there-
22 after,”; and

23 (C) by inserting “, or arising from a major
24 disaster, as defined in section 2604(e)(1)” be-
25 fore the period at the end; and

26 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(f) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry
2 out section 2607C, including making grants under that
3 section, \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, and
4 \$1,000,000,000 plus such additional sums as may be nec-
5 essary for each fiscal year thereafter.”.

6 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 2603 of the Low-Income Home Energy As-
8 sistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8622) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through
10 (6), (7) through (10), and (11), as paragraphs (6)
11 through (8), (10) through (13), and (15), respec-
12 tively;

13 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(4) The terms ‘extreme heat’ and ‘extreme
16 cold’, used with respect to a period, means a period
17 in which there is an increased risk of—

18 “(A) heat-related or cold-related, respec-
19 tively, illness, hospitalization, or death; or

20 “(B) failures or energy shutoffs of home
21 cooling or heating, respectively.

22 “(5) The term ‘HEAP coordinator’ means an
23 employee—

24 “(A) who administers a program funded
25 under section 2602(b); and

1 “(B) whose salary is paid, partly or wholly,
2 with funds made available under that section.”;

3 (3) by inserting after paragraph (8), as so re-
4 designated, the following:

5 “(9) The term ‘local coordinating agency’
6 means any local organization or local office that re-
7 ceives funds under section 2602(b) to perform cus-
8 tomer intake, or approval of benefits, on behalf of
9 the State agency.”; and

10 (4) by inserting after paragraph (13), as so re-
11 designated, the following:

12 “(14) The term ‘State agency’ means any State
13 agency that administers the program funded under
14 section 2602(b).”.

15 **SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE FOR EMERGENCIES AND MAJOR DIS-**
16 **ASTERS, INCLUDING EXTREME HEAT AND**
17 **COLD.**

18 Section 2604 of the Low-Income Home Energy As-
19 sistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8623) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(B), by striking “section
21 2605(b)(9)(B)” and inserting “section
22 2605(b)(10)(B)”; and

23 (2) in subsection (e)—

24 (A) by striking “(e)” and inserting the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(e)(1) In this subsection:

2 “(2”;

3 (B) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 “(A) The term ‘covered household’ means
6 an eligible household in an area where the
7 President, or the Secretary, as the case may be,
8 has declared or determined the occurrence of a
9 natural disaster, emergency, or major disaster.

10 “(B) The term ‘major disaster’ means—

11 “(i) a major disaster or emergency de-
12 clared under section 401 or 501, respec-
13 tively, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
14 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
15 U.S.C. 5170, 5191);

16 “(ii) a public health emergency deter-
17 mined under section 319 of the Public
18 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d); or

19 “(iii) a period of extreme heat or ex-
20 treme cold, as determined by the Sec-
21 retary.”;

22 (C) in paragraph (2), as so designated, by
23 striking “natural disaster or other emergency
24 involved” and inserting “natural disaster, emer-
25 gency, or major disaster involved”; and

1 (D) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(3) Upon a declaration or a determination of
3 a natural disaster, emergency, or major disaster, for
4 an area, the Secretary and the Administrator of the
5 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall, to
6 the extent practicable, provide heating or cooling as-
7 sistance through such an allotment to a State for
8 covered households in that area.

9 “(4) To receive assistance under this sub-
10 section, the State that has jurisdiction over the cov-
11 ered households shall provide assurances to the Sec-
12 retary that the State—

13 “(A) will not preclude a household that re-
14 ceives heating assistance or cooling assistance
15 under this title during a calendar year, on the
16 basis of obtaining that assistance, from receiv-
17 ing cooling assistance or heating assistance, re-
18 spectively, under this title during that year;

19 “(B) will not require a household to indi-
20 cate that a household member has a medical
21 need for assistance under this title, to be eligi-
22 ble for that assistance; and

23 “(C) will allow use of such assistance for
24 purposes for which heating or cooling assistance
25 is available under the program funded under

1 section 2602(b), including for providing energy-
2 efficient air conditioners, and other equipment
3 needed for home cooling, to eligible house-
4 holds.”.

5 **SEC. 6. ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.**

6 Section 2605 of the Low-Income Home Energy As-
7 sistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking
10 “paragraph (5)” and inserting “paragraph
11 (6)”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
14 graph (A), by inserting “, subject to sub-
15 section (c)(1)(A),” after “only”;

16 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
17 “(B)” and all that follows through clause
18 (ii) and inserting the following:

19 “(B) households with incomes which do not
20 exceed the greater of—

21 “(i) an amount equal to 250 percent
22 of the poverty level; or

23 “(ii) an amount equal to 80 percent of
24 the State median income,”; and

1 (iii) in the matter following subpara-
2 graph (B)—

3 (I) by striking “may give” and
4 inserting “shall give”; and

5 (II) by inserting before the semi-
6 colon the following: “, and the State
7 may not exclude a household from eli-
8 gibility on the basis of citizenship of 1
9 or more of the household members”;

10 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
11 through (16) as paragraphs (4) through (17),
12 respectively;

13 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
14 following:

15 “(3) ENERGY BURDEN LIMITS.—To the extent
16 practicable, the Secretary shall work with States
17 using funding under section 2602(b) (supplemented
18 by funding available through State-level energy pro-
19 grams, utility affordability initiatives, or other mech-
20 anisms as determined by the State in consultation
21 with the Secretary) to implement home energy af-
22 fordability measures—

23 “(A) to ensure that no household eligible
24 under paragraph (2) experiences an energy bur-
25 den for which the expenditures of the household

1 for home energy exceed 3 percent of household
2 income; and

3 “(B) to prioritize the further reduction of
4 energy burdens for such eligible households
5 with the lowest incomes.”; and

6 (E) in subparagraph (B) of paragraph
7 (10), as so redesignated, by striking “para-
8 graph (16)” and inserting “paragraph (17)”;
9 (2) in subsection (c)(1)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “as-
11 sistance to be provided under this title, includ-
12 ing criteria” and inserting “assistance to be
13 provided under this title, including—

14 “(i) certifying that the State and local
15 coordinating agencies in the State—

16 “(I) shall, to the greatest extent
17 possible, use data sharing agreements
18 with Federal and State low-income as-
19 sistance programs, including the sup-
20 plemental nutrition assistance pro-
21 gram established under the Food and
22 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011
23 et seq.), the Medicaid program estab-
24 lished under title XIX of the Social
25 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.),

1 and the supplemental security income
2 program established under title XVI
3 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
4 1381 et seq.), to verify eligibility;

5 “(II) shall implement simplified
6 re-enrollment procedures for house-
7 holds with fixed incomes or house-
8 holds already determined to be eligible
9 under other Federal and State low-in-
10 come assistance programs, to reduce
11 administrative burdens on applicants
12 and agencies;

13 “(III) shall not require applicants
14 to submit proof of citizenship to es-
15 tablish status as an eligible household;
16 and

17 “(IV) if neither the verification
18 process described in subclause (I) nor
19 the re-enrollment process described in
20 subclause (II) apply to a household,
21 shall allow applicants to self-attest
22 that the applicants meet the criteria
23 established under this title for an eli-
24 gible household, to the extent nec-
25 essary to facilitate access to assist-

1 ance and prevent undue hardship for
2 applicants; and

3 “(ii) describing criteria.”;

4 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking
5 “paragraph (5)” and inserting “paragraph
6 (6)”; and

7 (C) in subparagraph (F), by striking
8 “clauses (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (10), (12),
9 (13), and (15) of subsection (b)” and inserting
10 “paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (11),
11 (13), (14), and (16) of subsection (b)”;

12 (3) in subsection (e), by striking “subsection
13 (b)(10)” and inserting “subsection (b)(11)”;

14 (4) in subsection (f), by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(3) For purposes of section 401(c), and the re-
17 mainder of title IV, of the Personal Responsibility
18 and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8
19 U.S.C. 1611(a), 1601 et seq.), assistance under this
20 title shall not be considered to be a Federal public
21 benefit.”; and

22 (5) in subsection (j), by striking “the State may
23 apply” and inserting “the State may, subject to sub-
24 section (c)(1)(A)(i), apply”.

1 **SEC. 7. CONDITIONS FOR FUNDING.**

2 Section 2605 of the Low-Income Home Energy As-
3 sistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)(C), by inserting be-
6 fore the semicolon the following: “, using toxics-
7 free materials that do not contain asthmagens
8 or respiratory sensitizers, giving priority in the
9 use of those funds under this subparagraph, to
10 the greatest extent practicable, to supporting
11 emergency home repairs that foster energy effi-
12 ciency, decarbonization, and climate resilience,
13 including through beneficial electrification of
14 heating and cooling”;

15 (B) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated—

16 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
17 “and” at the end; and

18 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(E) ensure that—

21 “(i) the home energy supplier will not
22 charge late fees for any payment, by a
23 household receiving assistance through the
24 program funded under section 2602(b),
25 during the period beginning 6 months be-
26 fore and ending 6 months after a date on

1 which the supplier receives funds through
2 the program for the household; and

3 “(ii) if the supplier receives funds
4 through the program for such a household
5 and charged such late fees during that pe-
6 riod, the supplier shall refund the fees to
7 the household not later than 7 days after
8 the date the supplier receives the funds;

9 “(F) ensure that the home energy supplier
10 will not shut off home energy from a household
11 that received assistance through the program
12 funded under section 2602(b), within the 2-year
13 period beginning on the date the household re-
14 ceived the assistance;

15 “(G) ensure that the home energy supplier,
16 in return for receiving funds through the pro-
17 gram funded under section 2602(b)—

18 “(i) will provide to the State data on
19 households that have not paid their home
20 energy bills, to enable the State and the
21 supplier to carry out coordinated outreach
22 concerning assistance available through the
23 program funded under section 2602(b);
24 and

1 “(ii) will, when sending a notice of
2 late payments to such households, include
3 information on such assistance, on how to
4 access such assistance through the pro-
5 gram, and on eligibility criteria for the
6 program; and

7 “(H) ensure that the home energy supplier
8 will, not later than 2 years after the date of en-
9 actment of the Heating and Cooling Relief Act,
10 in return for receiving assistance under the pro-
11 gram funded under section 2602(b) and
12 through a partnership with the State, offer a
13 low-income energy affordability payment pro-
14 gram;”; and

15 (C) in paragraph (10), as so redesign-
16 nated—

17 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (I) by striking “10 percent” and
19 inserting “15 percent”; and

20 (II) by striking “and” at the end;
21 and

22 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(C) in planning and administering that
25 program, the State shall use the portion of the

1 amount described in subparagraph (A), that ex-
2 ceeds 10 percent of the funds described in sub-
3 paragraph (A), to expand the State program
4 funded under section 2602(b) so that the State
5 operates the program on a year-round basis;
6 and

7 “(D) in planning and administering that
8 program, the State—

9 “(i) shall make technological changes
10 to allow, not later than 5 years after the
11 date of enactment of the Heating and
12 Cooling Relief Act, for online submission of
13 applications for assistance through that
14 program; and

15 “(ii) shall, to the extent practicable—

16 “(I) conduct outreach activities,
17 including activities to increase enroll-
18 ment as described in subsection (p);

19 “(II) ensure that all HEAP coor-
20 dinators in the State receive wages,
21 for administration funded under sec-
22 tion 2602(b), at not less than the
23 greater of \$15 per hour or the appli-
24 cable Federal, State, or local min-
25 imum wage rate;

1 “(III) conduct training for
2 HEAP coordinators, State agency
3 staff, and community partners on best
4 practices for outreach, application
5 processing, and assisting eligible
6 households;

7 “(IV) as needed, conduct out-
8 reach relating to the program funded
9 under section 2602(b) to rural electric
10 cooperatives, home energy suppliers
11 owned by a political subdivision of a
12 State, such as a municipally owned
13 electric utility, and home energy sup-
14 pliers owned by any agency, authority,
15 corporation, or instrumentality of a
16 political subdivision of a State; and

17 “(V) ensure autoenrollment of el-
18 igible households into the program
19 funded under section 2602(b), and in
20 the process document any potential
21 barriers to autoenrollment that need
22 to be clarified or otherwise addressed
23 at the Federal level;”;

24 (2) in subsection (c)(1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (G), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as
4 subparagraph (I); and

5 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (G)
6 the following:

7 “(H) describes how the State will expand the
8 State program funded under section 2602(b) so that
9 the State operates the program on a year-round
10 basis in accordance with subsection (b)(10)(C) and
11 the measures the State has taken so far to carry out
12 that expansion; and”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(m) The Secretary shall allow, to the greatest extent
15 possible, eligible households to obtain assistance with
16 minimal administrative burden, by carrying out subsection
17 (c)(1)(A)(i).

18 “(n) The Secretary shall, by grant or contract, pro-
19 vide for a study that examines the rates of home energy
20 shutoffs and assessments of late fees among eligible house-
21 holds, relative to those rates for households that are not
22 eligible households, over a period of several years.

23 “(o) The Secretary shall provide technical assistance
24 to States to support partnerships described in subsection
25 (b)(8)(H).

1 “(p)(1) The Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
2 retary of Education, shall issue guidance for use of funds
3 for administrative activities described in subsection
4 (b)(10) to increase, through partnerships with elementary
5 schools, secondary schools, and local educational agencies,
6 enrollment in the program funded under section 2602(b)
7 among eligible households that include children and that
8 have high energy burdens.

9 “(2) The Secretary shall issue guidance for use by
10 States on outreach relating to assistance through the pro-
11 gram funded under section 2602(b) to high-risk individ-
12 uals, with relevant medical conditions, that benefit from
13 the use of medical equipment that requires electricity, in-
14 cluding a ventilator, an oxygen concentrator, or another
15 medical device that requires electricity.

16 “(3) The Secretary shall issue guidance for use by
17 States on how to ensure that eligible households are aware
18 of additional grants, tax credits, and rebates, made avail-
19 able under Public Law 117–169, or an amendment made
20 by such law.

21 “(q) Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
22 ment of the Heating and Cooling Relief Act, the Secretary
23 shall require each State receiving funds under this title,
24 including allotments under subsection (a) or (e) of section
25 2604, to develop and update as necessary, an action plan

1 for a period of extreme heat, which shall describe how the
2 State will use its allotments under this title to assist eligi-
3 ble households in covering cooling costs and mitigating
4 heat-related health risks.

5 “(r) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
6 of the Heating and Cooling Relief Act, the Secretary shall
7 conduct a review of eligibility criteria for assistance under
8 this title and identify additional vulnerable populations to
9 include under such criteria, such as pregnant women and
10 individuals with medical conditions exacerbated by a pe-
11 riod of extreme heat.

12 “(s) The Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
13 retary of Energy, shall require State energy offices receiv-
14 ing Federal funds under this title to develop plans—

15 “(1) to retrofit low-income housing stock to
16 adapt to rising temperatures and address environ-
17 mental hazards, including—

18 “(A) deploying highly efficient cooling sys-
19 tems, including heat pumps;

20 “(B) expanding weatherization and passive
21 cooling strategies;

22 “(C) addressing structural and health haz-
23 ards, including mold, lead, asbestos, and pest
24 infections; and

1 “(D) ensuring that necessary electrical
2 panel and wiring upgrades are completed to
3 support the installation of cooling systems and
4 energy efficiency improvements; and

5 “(2) to assess and adapt existing (as of the
6 date of development of the plan) shutoff policies to
7 protect all households while considering the impact
8 on energy affordability and energy grid reliability.

9 “(t)(1) Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
10 ment of the Heating and Cooling Relief Act, the Secretary,
11 in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban
12 Development, shall submit a report to Congress that—

13 “(A) identifies safe residential temperature
14 standards for federally assisted dwelling units, con-
15 sidering risks of periods of extreme heat and ex-
16 treme cold and regional climate variations; and

17 “(B) proposes strategies to ensure compliance
18 with the standards, including permitting covered
19 utility allowances to be used for cooling assistance
20 where feasible, taking into account regional climate
21 variations and housing stock differences.

22 “(2) In this subsection, the term ‘covered utility al-
23 lowance’ means a utility allowance—

1 “(A) applicable to public housing dwelling units
2 under section 3 of the United States Housing Act of
3 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a); or

4 “(B) under the housing choice voucher program
5 under section 8(o)(2)(D) of the United States Hous-
6 ing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(2)(D)).”.

7 **SEC. 8. WEATHERIZATION.**

8 Section 2605(k) of the Low-Income Home Energy
9 Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624(k)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “15 percent”
11 and inserting “25 percent”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter
14 preceding clause (i)—

15 (i) by striking “subparagraph (B)”
16 and inserting “subparagraph (C)”; and

17 (ii) by striking “the greater of 25 per-
18 cent” and inserting “a portion equal to the
19 greater of 35 percent”;

20 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
21 subparagraph (C); and

22 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
23 the following:

24 “(B) The State—

25 “(i) shall, to the extent practicable—

1 “(I) use the portion described in subpara-
2 graph (A) for energy-related home repair that
3 reduces dependence on fossil fuel energy
4 sources; and

5 “(II) use the portion to facilitate the use
6 of funds made available under section 2602(b)
7 to increase the participation of eligible house-
8 holds in community solar programs, or to other-
9 wise increase access to and ownership of dis-
10 tributed renewable energy infrastructure among
11 eligible households; and

12 “(ii) shall if possible give the highest priority to
13 using the portion for home repair that replaces ap-
14 pliances that rely on fossil fuels with appliances that
15 use electric heating or cooling technology, powered
16 by renewable energy.”.

17 **SEC. 9. HOME ENERGY PAYMENT ARREARS DATA COLLEC-**
18 **TION.**

19 Section 2605 of the Low-Income Home Energy As-
20 sistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624), as amended by
21 section 7, is further amended by adding at the end the
22 following:

23 “(u)(1)(A) The Secretary, in consultation with the
24 Secretary of Energy, shall develop a standardized template
25 for States and home energy suppliers to use to track and

1 report data on eligible households in arrears in home en-
2 ergy payments, including data on the related fees and dis-
3 connections for such households.

4 “(B) The template developed under subparagraph
5 (A) shall—

6 “(i) include a definition of an eligible household
7 in arrears, with respect to home energy payments, as
8 an eligible household that has not made payment on
9 a home energy bill for more than 60 to 90 days, as
10 determined by the State agency or local coordinating
11 agency, unless otherwise specified by State law;

12 “(ii) include metrics on related disconnections,
13 late fees, reconnections, and arrearage balances for
14 eligible households; and

15 “(iii) align with existing (as of the date of the
16 development) Federal and State reporting mecha-
17 nisms where applicable.

18 “(2) Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
19 ment of the Heating and Cooling Relief Act, the Secretary
20 shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, issue
21 guidance on best practices for States (including through
22 partnerships with home energy suppliers) to pay for home
23 energy payment arrearages with assistance provided
24 through the program funded under section 2602(b), in-
25 cluding by paying for such arrearages at the time of dis-

1 semination of assistance through that program. Such
2 guidance shall prohibit any home energy supplier receiving
3 funds through the program from recovering arrearage as-
4 sistance costs through rate increases or other charges to
5 customers, including cost recovery mechanisms that dis-
6 proportionately impact low-income households.

7 “(3) To the extent practicable, the Secretary and the
8 Secretary of Energy shall jointly—

9 “(A) implement a data tracking system, aligned
10 with the standardized reporting template developed
11 under paragraph (1), to collect aggregate data re-
12 garding the number of eligible households in arrears
13 and their respective energy burdens and develop rec-
14 ommendations to HEAP coordinators on how to
15 minimize energy burdens for the households; and

16 “(B) issue guidance to home energy suppliers
17 with recommendations for working with State agen-
18 cies to address home energy payment arrearages of
19 eligible households.

20 “(4) The Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
21 retary of Energy, may make grants to States to assist the
22 States in implementing data tracking and reporting re-
23 quirements under this subsection.

24 “(5) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry
25 out this subsection such sums as may be necessary.”.

1 **SEC. 10. PROGRAM NAME CHANGE.**

2 (a) LIHEAP.—The Low-Income Home Energy As-
3 sistance Act of 1981 is amended—

4 (1) in section 2607A(b) (42 U.S.C. 8626a(b)),
5 in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking
6 “low-income” the first place it appears; and

7 (2) in section 2607B(e)(2)(B)(ii) (42 U.S.C.
8 8626b(e)(2)(B)(ii)), by striking “Low-Income”.

9 (b) OTHER LAW.—A reference in any other Federal
10 law (other than that Act), Executive order, rule, regula-
11 tion, or delegation of authority, or any document, of or
12 relating to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Pro-
13 gram, shall be deemed to refer to the Home Energy As-
14 sistance Program.

15 **SEC. 11. JUST TRANSITION GRANTS.**

16 The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of
17 1981 is amended by inserting after section 2607B (42
18 U.S.C. 8626b) the following:

19 **“SEC. 2607C. HEAP JUST TRANSITION GRANTS.**

20 “(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary and the Sec-
21 retary of Energy shall jointly carry out a grant program
22 under this section. In carrying out the program, the Secre-
23 taries shall make grants for a period of 3 years to States
24 and local governments to support the development and im-
25 plementation of interagency plans to reduce energy bur-
26 dens for eligible households with high home energy use.

1 The plans shall promote the reduction of those burdens
2 in a manner that supports a just transition away from
3 fossil fuel energy and protects eligible households from the
4 threats of climate change. The Secretaries shall make the
5 grants for a period of 3 years.

6 “(b) PREFERENCES.—In making the grants, the Sec-
7 retary shall give a preference to States, and local govern-
8 ments, who set up coordination systems—

9 “(1) to identify eligible households, that are re-
10 cipients of assistance through the program funded
11 under section 2602(b), with high home energy use;

12 “(2) to prioritize eligible households with the
13 highest energy burdens and lowest incomes, in align-
14 ment with the priority provisions in paragraphs (2)
15 and (3) of section 2605(b), to receive emergency re-
16 pair, weatherization, and retrofit assistance that re-
17 sults in decarbonization and reductions in energy
18 use; and

19 “(3) to partner with entities carrying out work-
20 force development initiatives, unions, or minority or
21 women-owned business enterprises to provide emer-
22 gency repairs, weatherization, and retrofit assist-
23 ance.

24 “(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—At the conclusion of
25 the 3-year grant period, the Secretaries shall—

1 “(1) conduct an evaluation of the program’s
2 outcomes; and

3 “(2) prepare and submit to Congress a report
4 containing the results of the evaluation and policy
5 recommendations.”.

6 **SEC. 12. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

7 The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of
8 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) in section 2607B(e)(2)(K) (42 U.S.C.
10 8626b(e)(2)(K)) by striking “paragraphs (2), (3),
11 (4), (5), (7), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), and (14) of
12 section 2605(b)” and inserting “paragraphs (2), (4),
13 (5), (6), (8), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), and (15)
14 of section 2605(b)”; and

15 (2) in section 2610(b)(1) (42 U.S.C. 8629) by
16 striking “clauses (2), (5), (8), and (15) of section
17 2605(b)” and inserting “paragraphs (2), (6), (9),
18 and (16) of section 2605(b)”.