



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6653

LCO No. 5611



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTHY HOMES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 8-446 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

3 (a) There is established an account to be known as the "Healthy
4 Homes Fund" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the
5 General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to
6 be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended
7 by the Department of Housing for the purposes of:

8 (1) Funding of not more than one million dollars, from remittances
9 transferred pursuant to section 38a-331 for the period beginning January
10 1, 2019, and ending December 31, 2019, shall be remitted to the
11 Department of Economic and Community Development to be used for
12 grants-in-aid to homeowners with homes located in the immediate
13 vicinity of the West River in the Westville section of New Haven and
14 Woodbridge for structurally damaged homes due to subsidence and to
15 homeowners with homes abutting the Yale Golf Course in the Westville

16 section of New Haven for damage to such homes from water infiltration
17 or structural damage due to subsidence; and

18 (2) Funding a program, and any related administrative expense, to
19 reduce health and safety hazards in residential dwellings in
20 Connecticut, including, but not limited to, lead, radon and other
21 contaminants or conditions, through removal, remediation, abatement
22 and other appropriate methods. For purposes of this subdivision,
23 "administrative expense" means any administrative or other cost or
24 expense incurred by the Department of Housing in carrying out the
25 provisions of this [section] subdivision, including, but not limited to, the
26 hiring of necessary employees and entering into necessary contracts;
27 and

28 (3) Funding the pilot program established pursuant to section 2 of
29 this act.

30 (b) The Department of Housing shall notify the Department of Public
31 Health not later than thirty days after the deposit of remittances in the
32 Healthy Homes Fund pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of
33 section 38a-331. Not later than thirty days after the deposit of
34 remittances pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 38a-
35 331, the Department of Public Health shall notify each municipal health
36 department in the state annually regarding funds available pursuant to
37 the Healthy Homes Fund established pursuant to subsection (a) of this
38 section.

39 (c) Not later than January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the
40 Commissioner of Housing shall report to the joint standing committees
41 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
42 housing, planning and development and appropriations and the
43 budgets of state agencies, in accordance with section 11-4a, regarding
44 the status of the Healthy Homes Fund established pursuant to this
45 section and all moneys deposited into and expended by the Department
46 of Housing pursuant to said account. Any such report may be submitted
47 electronically.

48 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) (a) On or before January 1,
49 2022, the Department of Housing shall establish a pilot program to
50 annually provide not less than five hundred residential dwellings with
51 (1) energy efficiency retrofits, including, but not limited to, retrofitting
52 of existing heating, ventilation or air conditioning systems, and (2)
53 residential improvements that reduce health and safety hazards found
54 in such residential dwellings, including, but not limited to, lead, radon
55 and other contaminants, through removal, remediation and abatement
56 of such health and safety hazards. The energy efficiency retrofits shall
57 be consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Conservation and Load
58 Management Plan submitted by the electric distribution companies, as
59 defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, in coordination with the
60 gas companies, as defined in said section, to the Energy Conservation
61 Management Board pursuant to section 16-245m of the general statutes.
62 The pilot program shall be funded in accordance with the provisions of
63 subsection (c) of this section and terminate on December 31, 2031.

64 (b) The Commissioner of Housing may contract with nonprofit
65 organizations to employ in-home environmental assessors to perform
66 energy efficiency retrofits and residential improvements that reduce
67 health and safety hazards pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. In
68 order to qualify for employment as an in-home environmental assessor,
69 a person shall (1) for energy efficient retrofits, (A) be certified to perform
70 energy efficiency retrofits by a nationally recognized certifying
71 organization, or (B) have earned a certificate in energy efficiency
72 retrofits, in-home environmental assessments or a related field from an
73 accredited institution of higher education, or (2) for residential
74 improvements that reduce health and safety hazards, (A) be certified to
75 remove, remediate or abate health and safety hazards by a nationally
76 recognized certifying organization, or (B) have earned a certificate in the
77 removal, remediation or abatement of health and safety hazards or a
78 related field from an accredited institution of higher education.

79 (c) In accordance with the provisions of section 8-446 of the general
80 statutes, as amended by this act, beginning on January 1, 2022, the
81 Commissioner of Housing shall expend five hundred thousand dollars

82 annually for the purposes of the pilot program established pursuant to
83 this section and any related administrative expense. For purposes of this
84 subsection, "administrative expense" means any administrative or other
85 cost or expense incurred by the Department of Housing in carrying out
86 the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, the hiring of
87 necessary employees and entering into necessary contracts.

88 (d) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter until
89 December 31, 2031, the Commissioner of Housing shall report, in
90 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
91 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
92 cognizance of matters relating to housing, energy and technology,
93 planning and development and the budgets of state agencies regarding
94 the status of the pilot program established pursuant to subsection (a) of
95 this section and all moneys expended by the Department of Housing for
96 the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	8-446
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a pilot program to annually provide not less than five hundred residential dwellings with (1) energy efficiency retrofits, and (2) residential improvements that reduce health and safety hazards found in such residential dwellings.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]