



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2021

LCO No. 9241



Offered by:
SEN. CICARELLA, 34th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 356

File No. 142

Cal. No. 136

(As Amended)

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT GRANT PROGRAM FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING."

1 Strike section 1 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

2 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than September
3 1, 2021, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
4 establish an energy efficiency retrofit loan program. Such program shall
5 award no interest loans to fund the installation of energy efficient
6 upgrades to affordable housing, as defined in section 8-39a of the
7 general statutes, including, but not limited to, property of a housing
8 authority, as defined in section 8-39 of the general statutes. Such
9 upgrades shall include energy efficiency and weatherization measures
10 and may include, but need not be limited to, the installation of rooftop
11 solar photovoltaic panels, energy storage systems located on the
12 customer's premises, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, heat
13 pumps and balanced ventilation, and the mitigation of health and safety
14 hazards, including, but not limited to, gas leaks, mold, vermiculite and

15 asbestos, lead and radon, to the extent such hazards impede the
16 installation of energy efficiency upgrades and weatherization measures.

17 (b) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
18 develop standards for the energy efficiency retrofit loan program. Loans
19 made pursuant to this section shall have such terms and conditions, and
20 shall be subject to such eligibility, loan approval, credit and other
21 underwriting requirements and criteria as are determined by the
22 department to be reasonable in light of the objectives of the loan
23 program. The department may consult with other state agencies, quasi-
24 public agencies and housing authorities, and shall consider the energy
25 performance standards developed pursuant to section 16a-38 of the
26 general statutes, in establishing the standards for the loan program. The
27 department may coordinate with other state agencies, quasi-public
28 agencies and housing authorities to implement the loan program in
29 conjunction with other existing state programs that have the purpose of
30 installing or otherwise assisting state residents to obtain the upgrades
31 set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The department may retain
32 consultants with expertise in energy efficiency retrofit programs or
33 distributed energy programs, or both, for assistance with its
34 development or administration of the loan program.

35 (c) A loan applicant shall submit an application to the Commissioner
36 of Energy and Environmental Protection on forms prescribed by the
37 commissioner, which shall include, but not be limited to: (1) A
38 description of the proposed project; (2) an explanation of the expected
39 benefits of the project in relation to the purposes of this section; (3)
40 information concerning the financial and technical capacity of the
41 applicant to undertake the proposed project; (4) a project budget; and
42 (5) any other information deemed necessary by the commissioner. The
43 commissioner shall prioritize loans to applicants who (A) use the
44 services of local contractors who pay the prevailing wage and who make
45 good faith efforts to hire, or cause to be hired, available and qualified
46 minority business enterprises, as defined in section 4a-60g of the general
47 statutes, and (B) upgrade affordable housing for households that
48 include an individual who qualifies for utility financial hardship

49 programs or who receives means-tested assistance administered by the
50 state or federal government.

51 (d) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the
52 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall submit a
53 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
54 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
55 having cognizance of matters relating to energy and technology and
56 housing. Such report shall include the standards developed pursuant to
57 subsection (b) of this section, an analysis of the scope of residences able
58 to be served by the loan program and proposed goals for the annual
59 percentage of affordable housing units that can be served by the
60 program."

61 Strike sections 2 and 3 in their entirety