

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Energy to further develop and support the adoption of a voluntary streamlined permitting and inspection process for authorities having jurisdiction over the permitting of qualifying distributed energy systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HEINRICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Energy to further develop and support the adoption of a voluntary streamlined permitting and inspection process for authorities having jurisdiction over the permitting of qualifying distributed energy systems, 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 “Streamlining Home
5 Installation of New Energies Act of 2023” or the “SHINE
6 Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM TO FACILITATE**
2 **VOLUNTARY STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR**
3 **LOCAL PERMITTING OF QUALIFYING DIS-**
4 **TRIBUTED ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION.—The
7 term “authority having jurisdiction” means any
8 State, county, local, or Tribal office or official with
9 jurisdiction—

10 (A) to issue permits relating to qualifying
11 distributed energy systems;

12 (B) to conduct inspections to enforce the
13 requirements of a relevant code or standard re-
14 lating to qualifying distributed energy systems;
15 or

16 (C) to approve the installation of, or the
17 equipment and materials used in the installa-
18 tion of, qualifying distributed energy systems.

19 (2) QUALIFYING DISTRIBUTED ENERGY SYS-
20 TEM.—The term “qualifying distributed energy sys-
21 tem” means any equipment or materials installed in,
22 on, or near a residential building to support onsite
23 or local energy use, including—

24 (A) to generate electricity from distributed
25 renewable energy sources, including from—

1 (i) solar photovoltaic systems or simi-
2 lar solar energy technologies; and

3 (ii) wind power systems;

4 (B) to store and discharge electricity from
5 batteries with a capacity of at least 2 kilowatt
6 hours;

7 (C) to charge a plug-in electric drive vehi-
8 cle at a power rate of at least 2 kilowatts; or

9 (D) to refuel a hydrogen fuel cell electric
10 vehicle.

11 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of Energy.

13 (b) PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the
14 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-
15 tion with trade associations and other entities representing
16 distributed energy system installers and organizations rep-
17 resenting State, local, and Tribal governments engaged in
18 permitting, shall carry out a program to further develop,
19 expand, and support the adoption of a voluntary stream-
20 lined permitting and inspection process for authorities
21 having jurisdiction to use for the permitting of qualifying
22 distributed energy systems.

23 (c) ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM.—In carrying out
24 the program established under subsection (b), the Sec-
25 retary shall—

1 (1) further develop and expand an exemplary
2 streamlined permitting process that includes an on-
3 line permitting platform—

4 (A) for expediting, standardizing, and
5 streamlining permitting; and

6 (B) that authorities having jurisdiction
7 may voluntarily use to receive, review, and ap-
8 prove permit applications relating to qualifying
9 distributed energy systems;

10 (2) establish targets for the adoption of a
11 streamlined, expedited permitting process by au-
12 thorities having jurisdiction;

13 (3) provide technical assistance and training di-
14 rectly or indirectly to authorities having jurisdiction
15 on using and adopting the exemplary streamlined
16 permitting process described in paragraph (1), in-
17 cluding the adoption of any necessary building codes;

18 (4) develop a voluntary inspection protocol and
19 related tools to expedite, standardize, and streamline
20 the inspection of qualifying distributed energy sys-
21 tems, including—

22 (A) by investigating the potential for using
23 remote inspections;

24 (B) by investigating the potential for sam-
25 ple-based inspection for distributed energy sys-

1 tem installers with a demonstrated track record
2 of high-quality work; and

3 (C) by investigating opportunities to inte-
4 grate the voluntary inspection protocol into the
5 online permitting platform described in para-
6 graph (1) and the platforms of government
7 software providers; and

8 (5) take any other action to expedite, stand-
9 ardize, streamline, or improve the process for per-
10 mitting, inspecting, or interconnecting qualifying
11 distributed energy systems.

12 (d) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Secretary shall—

13 (1) support the provision of technical assistance
14 to authorities having jurisdiction, any administrator
15 of the online permitting platform described in sub-
16 section (c)(1), government software providers, and
17 any other entity determined appropriate by the Sec-
18 retary in carrying out the activities described in sub-
19 section (c); and

20 (2) provide such financial assistance as the Sec-
21 retary determines appropriate from any funds appro-
22 priated to carry out this section.

23 (e) AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION CERTIFI-
24 CATION PROGRAM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may certify
2 authorities having jurisdiction that implement the
3 exemplary streamlined permitting process described
4 in subsection (c)(1).

5 (2) PROCESS.—The Secretary may confer a cer-
6 tification under paragraph (1) through existing pro-
7 grams within the Department of Energy.

8 (3) PRIZES.—The Secretary may award prizes
9 to authorities having jurisdiction, using funds appro-
10 priated to the Secretary to carry out this section, to
11 encourage authorities having jurisdiction to adopt
12 the exemplary streamlined permitting process or the
13 voluntary inspection protocol established under para-
14 graphs (1) and (4) of subsection (c), respectively.

15 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
17 out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
18 through 2027.