

Major Provisions of the Energy Savings & Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013

(Shaheen-Portman, S. 1392)

OVERVIEW:

The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness (ESIC) Act will spur the use of energy efficiency technologies in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of our economy. This will save consumers and taxpayers money through lowered energy consumption, help create jobs, make our country more energy independent, and protect our environment from harmful emissions.

By 2020, Shaheen-Portman is estimated to create 80,000 new jobs, lower CO₂ emissions by the equivalent of taking 5 million cars off the road, and save consumers \$4 billion a year in reduced energy costs, according to a 2012 study of the bill.

This bipartisan bill uses a variety of low-cost tools to make it easier for private sector energy users to become more efficient while also making the country's largest energy user – the federal government – more efficient. The bill incentivizes the use of efficiency technologies that are commercially available today, can be widely deployed in every state across the country, and pay for themselves through energy savings relatively quickly.

BUILDINGS (Title I)

- **Building Energy Codes**
 - Strengthens national model building codes for new homes and commercial buildings by requiring the Department of Energy (DOE) to support their development, including the setting of energy savings targets and providing of technical assistance to the code-setting and standard development organizations.
 - DOE, in consultation with building science experts and institutions of higher learning, will produce a report on the feasibility, impact, economics and value of code improvements.
 - Changes the State certification process so that within two years after model building codes are updated, States are to certify whether or not they have updated their building codes, and demonstrate if the building codes have met or exceeded energy savings targets.
 - The legislation reserves adoption and enforcement of model building codes to the States, but empowers DOE to offer technical assistance.
 - Authorizes \$200 million in funding to incentivize and assist States to meet the goals and requirements of the bill through the use of model codes until expended.
- **Worker Training and Capacity Building**
 - Trains the next generation of workers in energy-efficient commercial building design and operation through two worker training programs.
 - Establishes a DOE program for university-based Building Training and Assessment Centers, modeled after the existing Industrial Assessment Centers (IACs). The program authorized at \$10 million will provide worker training in energy-efficient commercial building design and operations for engineers, architects and building workers.
 - Establishes a DOE career skills program to provide grants to nonprofit partnerships for worker training in for the construction and installation of energy-efficient building technologies. Authorizes \$10 million in funding to carry out this section and establishes a 50 percent federal cost share.

INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY AND COMPETITIVENESS (Title II)

- **Manufacturing Energy Efficiency**

- Reforms and reorients DOE's industry-led efficiency programs by providing clearer guidance on responsibilities.
- Requires DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) to provide onsite technical assessments to manufacturers seeking efficiency opportunities.
- Streamlines efforts by directing Industrial Assessment Centers (IACs) to coordinate with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and DOE's Building Technologies Program, and increases partnerships with the national laboratories and energy service and technology providers to leverage private sector expertise.
- **Supply Star**
 - Creates a DOE pilot program modeled on and in coordination with ENERGY STAR to identify examples and opportunities and promote practices for highly efficient supply chains.
 - Allows DOE to award companies financing (competitive grants/other incentives), technical support and training to improve supply side efficiency.
 - Authorizes \$10 million for FY2014 through FY2018.
- **Electric Motor Rebate Program**
 - Establishes a DOE rebate program to incentivize purchase of a new, high efficiency motor or a high efficiency motor system that reduces motor energy use by no less than 5%.
 - Authorizes \$5 million for FY2014 and FY2015.
- **Transformer Rebate Program**
 - Directs DOE to create an incentive rebate for the purchase of energy efficient transformers for industrial/manufacturing facilities or commercial/multifamily residential buildings.
 - Authorizes \$5 million for FY2014 and FY2015.

FEDERAL AGENCY ENERGY EFFICIENCY (Title III)

- Requires the federal government – the single largest energy user in the country – to adopt energy saving techniques for computers, saving energy and taxpayer dollars.
 - Direct the DOE, in consultation with other federal agencies, to issue recommendations to employ energy efficiency through the use of information and communications technologies – including computer hardware, operation and maintenance processes, energy efficiency software, and power management tools.
 - Allows the General Services Administration to utilize funding to update the project design of approved building construction to meet efficiency standards.
- Directs the Office of E-Government and Information Technology to develop and publish a goal for energy and cost savings through the consolidation of federal data centers.

MISCELLANEOUS (Title IV)

- **Offset**
 - Reduces authorization levels for the Zero-Net-Energy Commercial Building Initiative (Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007) by \$50 million in FY 2015 and \$100 million in each of FY 2016 through FY 2018.