



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

**Raised Bill No. 5480**

LCO No. 2695



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELIVERY OF HEALTHY HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND RETROFITS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 8-446 of the 2020 supplement to the general statutes  
2 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2020*):

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

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

16 homeowners with homes abutting the Yale Golf Course in the Westville  
17 section of New Haven for damage to such homes from water infiltration  
18 or structural damage due to subsidence; [and]

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

29 (3) Funding the pilot program, established pursuant to section 2 of  
30 this act, and any related administrative expense, beginning on January  
31 1, 2021, for a period of ten years, to provide energy efficiency retrofits in  
32 not less than five hundred residential dwellings annually in  
33 Connecticut. For purposes of this subdivision, "administrative expense"  
34 means any administrative or other cost or expense incurred by the  
35 Department of Housing in carrying out the provisions of this  
36 subdivision, including, but not limited to, the hiring of necessary  
37 employees and entering into necessary contracts.

38 (b) The Department of Housing shall notify the Department of Public  
39 Health not later than thirty days after the deposit of remittances in the  
40 Healthy Homes Fund pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of  
41 section 38a-331. Not later than thirty days after the deposit of  
42 remittances pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 38a-  
43 331, the Department of Public Health shall notify each municipal health  
44 department in the state annually regarding funds available pursuant to  
45 the Healthy Homes Fund established pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
46 section.

47 (c) Not later than January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the

48 Commissioner of Housing shall report to the joint standing committees  
49 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
50 housing, planning and development and appropriations and the  
51 budgets of state agencies, in accordance with section 11-4a, regarding  
52 the status of the Healthy Homes Fund established pursuant to this  
53 section and all moneys deposited into and expended by the Department  
54 of Housing pursuant to said account. Any such report may be submitted  
55 electronically.

56 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2020*) (a) On or before January 1,  
57 2021, the Department of Housing shall establish a pilot program to  
58 provide energy efficiency retrofits in not less than five hundred  
59 residential dwellings annually in Connecticut, beginning on January 1,  
60 2021, for a period of ten years. The energy efficiency retrofits shall be  
61 consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Conservation and Load  
62 Management Plan submitted by the electric distribution companies, as  
63 defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, in coordination with the  
64 gas companies, as defined in said section, to the Energy Conservation  
65 Management Board pursuant to section 16-245m of the general statutes.  
66 The pilot program shall be funded pursuant to subdivision (3) of  
67 subsection (a) of section 8-446 of the general statutes, as amended by this  
68 act.

69 (b) The Commissioner of Housing may contract with nonprofit  
70 organizations to employ in-home environmental assessors to perform  
71 energy efficiency retrofits pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. In  
72 order to qualify for employment as an in-home environmental assessor,  
73 a person shall (1) be certified to perform energy efficiency retrofits by a  
74 nationally recognized certifying organization, or (2) have earned a  
75 certificate in energy efficiency retrofits, in-home environmental  
76 assessments or a related field from an accredited institution of higher  
77 education.

78 (c) Not later than January 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the  
79 Commissioner of Housing shall report, in accordance with the  
80 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing

81 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
82 relating to housing, energy and technology, planning and development  
83 and the budgets of state agencies regarding the status of the pilot  
84 program established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and all  
85 moneys deposited into the Healthy Homes Fund pursuant to  
86 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 8-446 of the general statutes,  
87 as amended by this act, and expended by the Department of Housing  
88 for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section pursuant  
89 to said account.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	8-446
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a pilot program for the delivery of home inspections, home improvements and retrofits to create healthier, more energy efficient homes.

*[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.]*