

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1375

To amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to establish an Office of Energy Equity, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Mr. RUSH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to establish an Office of Energy Equity, 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 “Energy Equity Act
5 of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF ENERGY EQUITY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Department of En-
8 ergy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7131 et seq.) is amend-
9 ed by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 218. OFFICE OF ENERGY EQUITY.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
3 the Department an Office of Energy Equity (referred to
4 in this section as the ‘Office’). The Office shall be headed
5 by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary
6 and compensated at a rate equal to that of level IV of
7 the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5,
8 United States Code.

9 “(b) DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—The Director, in
10 accordance with Executive Order 12898 (42 U.S.C. 4321
11 note) and the purposes of this Act, shall provide, direct,
12 foster, coordinate, and implement energy planning, edu-
13 cation, management, conservation, and delivery programs
14 of the Department that—

15 “(1) promote an agency-wide environmental
16 justice strategy and interagency collaboration;

17 “(2) reduce or stabilize energy costs within un-
18 derserved or disadvantaged communities; and

19 “(3) increase the availability of energy con-
20 servation measures within underserved or disadvan-
21 tagged communities.

22 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 “(1) ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES.—The
24 term ‘energy conservation measures’ means meas-
25 ures that improve energy efficiency, energy conserva-

1 tion, or access to renewable energy sources, includ-
 2 ing retrofit activities.

3 “(2) UNDERSERVED OR DISADVANTAGES COM-
 4 MUNITY.—The term ‘underserved or disadvantaged
 5 community’ means—

6 “(A) a community located in a ZIP Code
 7 that includes a census tract that is identified
 8 as—

9 “(i) a low-income community; or

10 “(ii) a community of color; or

11 “(B) any other community that the Sec-
 12 retary determines is disproportionately vulner-
 13 able to, or bears a disproportionate burden of,
 14 any combination of economic, social, and envi-
 15 ronmental stressors.

16 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 17 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 18 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 20 tents of the Department of Energy Organization Act is
 21 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
 22 217 the following:

“Sec. 218. Office of Energy Equity.”.

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