

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 658

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an energy-efficient building accreditation program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 16, Property Code, is amended by adding Chapter 431 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 431. ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDING ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Sec. 431.001. ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDING ACCREDITATION PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "National Housing Act" means Section 203(b), (i), or (k) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. Sections 1709(b), (i), and (k)).

(b) The commission, in consultation with the Energy Systems Laboratory at the Texas Engineering Experiment Station of The Texas A&M University System, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and an advisory committee appointed by the commission, may establish an energy-efficient building accreditation program for buildings that exceed the building energy performance standards under Section 388.003, Health and Safety Code, by 15 percent or more.

(c) If the commission establishes a program under this chapter, the commission, in consultation with the Energy Systems Laboratory, shall update the program on or before December 1 of each even-numbered year using the best available energy-efficient building practices.

(d) If the commission establishes a program under this

1 chapter, the program must include a checklist system to produce an  
2 energy-efficient building scorecard to help:

3 (1) home buyers compare potential homes and, by  
4 providing a copy of the completed scorecard to a mortgage lender,  
5 qualify for energy-efficient mortgages under the National Housing  
6 Act; and

7 (2) communities qualify for emissions reduction  
8 credits by adopting codes that meet or exceed the energy-efficient  
9 building or energy performance standards established under Chapter  
10 388, Health and Safety Code.

11 Sec. 431.002. PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM. The commission  
12 may establish a public information program to inform homeowners,  
13 sellers, buyers, and others regarding energy-efficient building  
14 ratings.

15 Sec. 431.003. MEASUREMENT SYSTEM FOR REDUCTION IN ENERGY  
16 AND EMISSIONS. If the commission establishes a program under this  
17 chapter, the Energy Systems Laboratory shall establish a system to  
18 measure the reduction in energy and emissions produced under the  
19 energy-efficient building program and report those savings to the  
20 commission.

21 Sec. 431.004. CERTIFICATION FEE. If the commission  
22 establishes a program under this chapter, the commission may set a  
23 certification fee sufficient to cover the cost of administering the  
24 program and pay for any education efforts conducted under this  
25 chapter.

26 SECTION 2. Section 388.009, Health and Safety Code, is  
27 repealed.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.