



March 2014

## Summary of H.R. 2126

### THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Democratic Staff

The Energy Efficiency Improvement Act includes amended versions of four bills.

#### **Title I – Better Buildings Act (H.R. 2126; McKinley/Welch)**

Section 102 directs the General Services Administration to develop model leasing provisions and best practices to encourage commercial building owners and tenants to invest in cost-effective energy efficiency measures. The model leasing provisions may be used in federal leases and, along with the best practices, shall be made available to state and local governments.

Section 103 directs DOE to conduct a study on the feasibility of significantly improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings through the design and construction of separate tenant spaces with high-performance energy efficiency measures.

Section 104 directs EPA to develop a voluntary “Tenant Star” program within the Energy Star program to promote energy efficiency in separate spaces leased by tenants in commercial buildings. Within one year after the Energy Information Administration collects the data needed to implement the program, EPA is required to establish an Energy Star rating system to recognize tenants in commercial buildings that voluntarily achieve high levels of energy efficiency in separate spaces. EPA is also authorized to develop a voluntary program to recognize commercial building owners and tenants that use high-performance energy efficiency measures in the design and construction of separate spaces.

#### **Title II – Grid-Enabled Water Heaters (H.R. 4066; Whitfield)**

Section 201 establishes a separate, less-stringent energy efficiency standard for grid-enabled water heaters, which are used in utility demand-response and thermal storage programs. The provision requires grid-enabled water heaters to have a built-in activation lock in order to prevent them from functioning properly without participation in such a program.

#### **Title III – Energy Efficient Government Technology Act (H.R. 540; Eshoo/Rogers)**

Section 302 requires federal agencies to coordinate with OMB, DOE and EPA to develop an implementation strategy for the maintenance, purchase, and use of energy-efficient and energy-saving information technologies. OMB is required to track and report on each agency’s progress towards meeting the performance goals.

Section 303 requires DOE and EPA to collaborate with stakeholders in the implementation of the data center energy efficiency program. It also requires DOE to update a 2007 report on data center energy efficiency, maintain a data center energy practitioner certification program, establish an open data initiative to help share best practices and support further innovation, and facilitate the development of a metric that directly measures data center energy efficiency.

#### **Title IV – Energy Information for Commercial Buildings (H.R. 3820; Castor)**

Section 401 requires federally-leased buildings without Energy Star labels to benchmark and disclose their energy usage data in most cases. It also requires DOE to complete a study of best practices for and impacts of (1) state and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies for commercial and multifamily buildings and (2) utility policies for providing aggregated information to owners of multitenant buildings to assist with benchmarking programs. In addition, DOE is required to maintain a database to store and make available public energy-related information on commercial and multifamily buildings.