

HOUSE BILL 996

C5, P1

2lr2513

By: **Delegates Mizeur, Jameson, and A. Miller**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2012

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Renewable Energy for All Act**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Residential Biomass Heating System Grant
4 Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to provide grants to
5 individuals for a portion of the costs of acquiring and installing eligible biomass
6 heating systems; requiring the Administration to administer the Program,
7 establish certain procedures, and award grants up to a certain amount with
8 existing resources; authorizing the Administration to use certain funds for
9 certain other purposes under certain circumstances; authorizing the
10 Administration to award grants not exceeding certain amounts under the
11 Program; authorizing the Administration to award grants for the cost of
12 acquiring and installing certain eligible nonpellet biomass heating systems only
13 under certain circumstances; authorizing the Administration to award a certain
14 trade-in grant, not exceeding a certain amount, under certain circumstances;
15 authorizing the Administration to provide grant applicants with certain
16 information; and generally relating to the Residential Biomass Heating System
17 Grant Program.

18 BY adding to
19 Article – State Government
20 Section 9–2009
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – State Government**

26 **9–2009.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
2 MEANINGS INDICATED.

3 (2) “BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM” MEANS A RESIDENTIAL SPACE
4 HEATING SYSTEM THAT GENERATES HEAT FROM THE COMBUSTION OF WOOD OR
5 OTHER BIOMASS FUEL.

6 (3) “ELIGIBLE NONPELLET BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM” MEANS A
7 BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM THAT:

8 (I) IS NOT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO BURN PELLET
9 FUEL; AND

10 (II) HAS A PARTICULATE EMISSIONS LEVEL OF 3 GRAMS OR
11 LESS PER HOUR.

12 (4) “ELIGIBLE PELLET BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM” MEANS A
13 PELLET BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM THAT:

14 (I) IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO BURN PELLET FUEL;
15 AND

16 (II) HAS A PARTICULATE EMISSIONS LEVEL OF 1.5 GRAMS
17 OR LESS PER HOUR.

18 (5) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE RESIDENTIAL BIOMASS HEATING
19 SYSTEM GRANT PROGRAM.

20 (B) THERE IS A RESIDENTIAL BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM GRANT
21 PROGRAM IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

22 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO
23 INDIVIDUALS FOR A PORTION OF THE COSTS OF ACQUIRING AND INSTALLING
24 ELIGIBLE PELLET BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEMS AND ELIGIBLE NONPELLET
25 BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEMS.

26 (D) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:

27 (I) ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM;

28 (II) ESTABLISH APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE
29 PROGRAM; AND

1 (III) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
2 ALLOCATE AT LEAST \$100,000 AND NOT MORE THAN \$500,000 OF EXISTING
3 ADMINISTRATION RESOURCES FOR GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM
4 EACH YEAR.

5 (2) IF APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS UNDER THE PROGRAM DO NOT
6 REACH \$100,000 IN A GIVEN YEAR, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY APPLY THE
7 FUNDS NOT AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM TO BE USED FOR OTHER
8 AUTHORIZED PURPOSES.

9 (E) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, THE
10 ADMINISTRATION MAY AWARD A GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM TO ACQUIRE
11 AND INSTALL AN ELIGIBLE PELLET BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM OR AN ELIGIBLE
12 NONPELLET BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM AS FOLLOWS:

13 (1) FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A GROSS ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD
14 INCOME OF \$75,000 OR LESS, THE GRANT AMOUNT MAY NOT EXCEED THE
15 LESSER OF \$1,500 OR 40% OF THE INSTALLED COST OF THE BIOMASS HEATING
16 SYSTEM; AND

17 (2) FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A GROSS ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD
18 INCOME OF MORE THAN \$75,000, THE GRANT AMOUNT MAY NOT EXCEED THE
19 LESSER OF \$1,500 OR 30% OF THE INSTALLED COST OF THE BIOMASS HEATING
20 SYSTEM.

21 (F) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY AWARD A GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM
22 TO ACQUIRE AND INSTALL AN ELIGIBLE NONPELLET BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM
23 ONLY IF THE GRANT RECIPIENT'S PRIMARY HOUSEHOLD HEATING FUEL IS:

24 (1) ELECTRICITY;

25 (2) HEATING OIL; OR

26 (3) PROPANE.

27 (G) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL REQUIRE EACH ELIGIBLE PELLET
28 BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM OR ELIGIBLE NONPELLET BIOMASS HEATING
29 SYSTEM FOR WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES A GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM
30 TO BE INSTALLED BY A CERTIFIED INSTALLER.

31 (H) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY AWARD A BIOMASS HEATING
32 SYSTEM TRADE-IN GRANT TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES A GRANT UNDER

1 SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION IF THE ELIGIBLE PELLET BIOMASS HEATING
2 SYSTEM OR ELIGIBLE NONPELLET BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM REPLACES A
3 BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM THAT IS NOT CERTIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES
4 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

5 (2) A TRADE-IN GRANT AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION:

6 (I) MAY NOT EXCEED \$250; AND

7 (II) IS IN ADDITION TO ANY AMOUNT AWARDED UNDER
8 SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.

9 (3) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL REQUIRE THE SELLER OR
10 INSTALLER OF THE ELIGIBLE PELLET BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM OR ELIGIBLE
11 NONPELLET BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM TO:

12 (I) CERTIFY THAT THE GRANT RECIPIENT SURRENDERED A
13 BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM THAT IS NOT CERTIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES
14 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY; AND

15 (II) VERIFY THAT THE SURRENDERED BIOMASS HEATING
16 SYSTEM IS DEMOLISHED.

17 (I) AS PART OF THE PROGRAM, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY PROVIDE
18 GRANT APPLICANTS WITH INFORMATION ON ENERGY AUDIT, ENERGY
19 ASSISTANCE, AND WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF
20 THE STATE.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2012.