

Cash for Caulkers and Legislative Overview

Cash for Caulkers, formally called Home Star Retrofit rebate Program, is a bill intended to stimulate job growth and re-employment in the construction industry that has been hurt significantly in the recession while simultaneously promoting energy use reduction in residential structures.

Cash for Caulkers passed the US House of Representatives May 6, 2010 under the designation H.R. 5019 and will now head for consideration in US Senate Committee Hearings. As passed by the House, the bill would allot for a maximum of US\$6 billion for materials, labor and services to improve the energy efficiency of residents. This would include rebates for energy audits, sealing of HVAC systems, sealing of an entire home inside and out to minimize air leakage and rebates for the materials and labor for these measures. The program is also intended to stimulate the average American to begin considering these types of improvements in order to achieve less overall energy usage in the United States. To read the actual bill text, please [click here](#).

If Cash for Caulkers passes the Senate (voting is expected to be in late Spring or very early Summer 2010), it will then go to Consensus Hearings to develop a “compromise” bill between the versions passed by both chambers that, once approved, would go to President Obama to sign. After signing, it would be approximately 90 days before the established program is ready.