



AB 1232: Healthy Homes Act

Summary:

AB 1232 will require an assessment of the Low Income Weatherization Program (LIWP) to understand the types of housing participating in the program and the scope of the unintended impacts to tenants including unsustainable rent increases, evictions, or displacement. Additionally, AB 1232 will require inter-agency collaboration between LIWP and public health programs that provide healthy home upgrades to improve overall habitability of low-income units.

Background:

The impacts of climate change are real and felt now. This is especially true in low-income communities of color who have borne the brunt of pollution and environmental injustices for decades. These same communities are struggling to pay both increased utility costs due to more extreme, high heat days, while at the same time making rent each month. For more than 790,000 California households 50% below the federal poverty line, almost half of their monthly income goes to utility bills. Low-income households need support to both meet the state's ambitious energy goals and support their resiliency with respect to the impacts of climate change.

The Low-Income Weatherization Program (LIWP) was created to help bridge this gap. LIWP provides low-income households with solar systems and energy efficiency upgrades at no cost to residents. For renters, this can mean the installation of energy efficient heating and air, energy efficient appliances and lighting, window replacement, solar water heaters, etc.

However additional research is needed to ensure that the benefits from LIWP both reach and remain with the communities they are intended for. Additionally, the breadth of the displacement impacts of these investments is not fully understood.

Fully assessing the program is a critical next step to determining the appropriate protections required to achieve climate equity and a just transition for disadvantaged communities.

This bill:

Specifically, this bill:

1. Calls for an assessment of the program by January 1, 2023 to understand the displacement that occurs after energy upgrades are received and a database of health issues found in homes when doing energy or health audits, and
2. Ensures greater cross-referral amongst public health agencies, environmental health investigations branch, and the LIWP for comprehensive energy and healthy home improvements for low-income multifamily residents in disadvantaged communities.

Support:

Asian Pacific Environmental Network (Co-Sponsor)
California Environmental Justice Alliance (Co-Sponsor)
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Action
AYPAL
California Housing Partnerships Corporation
California League of Conservation Voters
Carbon Cycle Institute
Causa Justa Just Cause
Center for Biological Diversity
Ella Baker Center
Environment Defense Fund
Greenlining Institute
Laotian American National Alliance
Local Clean Energy Alliance
National Housing Law Project
Natural Resources Defense Council
Oakland Rising
Parent Voices
Public Health Justice Collective

Regional Asthma Management Prevention
Rising Sun Center for Opportunity

Contact:

Raquel Mason

Raquel.Mason@asm.ca.gov

916-319-2078