

and other issues associated with the use of propane, and develop programs and projects that provide assistance to persons who are eligible for the low-income home energy assistance program. The programs and projects shall be developed to attain equitable geographic distribution of their benefits to the fullest extent practicable. The costs of the programs and projects shall be paid with funds collected pursuant to section 101C.4. The council shall coordinate its programs and projects with propane industry trade associations and others as the council deems appropriate to provide efficient delivery of services and to avoid unnecessary duplication of activities. Issues concerning propane that are related to research and development, safety, education, and training shall be given priority by the council in the development of programs and projects.

b. The council may develop energy efficiency programs dedicated to weatherization, acquisition and installation of energy-efficient customer appliances that qualify for energy star certification, installation of low-flow faucets and showerheads, and energy efficiency education. The council may by rule establish quality standards in relation to weatherization and appliance installation.

Sec. 4. Section 101C.11, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

101C.11 REPORT.

The council shall prepare and submit an annual report to the fire marshal and the auditor of state summarizing the activities of the council conducted pursuant to this chapter. The report shall show all income, expenses, and other relevant information concerning assessments collected and expended under this chapter. The report shall also include a summary of energy efficiency programs as specified in section 101C.3, subsection 8, if developed by the council.

Approved May 22, 2009

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## CHAPTER 142

### SAFE ROOM AND STORM SHELTER STANDARDS

H.F. 705

**AN ACT** concerning safe rooms and storm shelters in newly constructed buildings.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. Section 103A.7, subsection 2, Code 2009, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

NEW PARAGRAPH. h. Standards for safe rooms and storm shelters.

Sec. 2. NEWSECTION. 103A.8C STANDARDS FOR SAFE ROOMS AND STORM SHELTERS.

The commissioner, after consulting with and receiving recommendations from the department of public defense, the department of natural resources, and the rebuild Iowa office, shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A specifying standards and requirements for design and construction of safe rooms and storm shelters. In developing these standards, the commissioner shall consider nationally recognized standards. The standards and requirements shall be incorporated into the state building code established in section 103A.7, but shall not be interpreted to require the inclusion of a safe room or storm shelter in a building construction project unless such inclusion is expressly required by another statute or by a federal statute or regulation. However, if a safe room or storm shelter is included in any building construction

project which reaches the design development phase on or after January 1, 2011, compliance with the standards developed pursuant to this section shall be required.

The commissioner may provide education and training to promote the use of best practices in the design, construction, and maintenance of buildings, safe rooms, and shelters to reduce the risk of personal injury from tornadoes or other severe weather.

Sec. 3. STATE BUILDING CODE — SAFE ROOMS AND STORM SHELTERS — RULE-MAKING. The initial administrative rules required to be adopted pursuant to section 103A.8C, as enacted by this Act, shall be adopted by the state building code commissioner on or after February 1, 2010, but no later than April 1, 2010, and shall not become effective prior to July 1, 2010.

Sec. 4. SAFE ROOMS AND STORM SHELTERS — BEST PRACTICES REVIEW — REPORT. The state building code commissioner, in cooperation with the department of public defense, the department of natural resources, and the rebuild Iowa office, shall review and assess best practices in the design, construction, and maintenance of buildings, safe rooms, and storm shelters to reduce the risk of personal injury from tornadoes and other severe weather. The commissioner shall report the findings of the review and assessment to the governor and the general assembly by December 15, 2009. The review and assessment shall be conducted as part of the rulemaking process for the initial rulemaking required pursuant to this Act and section 103A.8C, as enacted by this Act, and shall include public comment received during that process.

Approved May 22, 2009

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## CHAPTER 143

### ABSENTEE BALLOTS — PATIENTS OR RESIDENTS OF HOSPITALS OR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

*H.F. 708*

**AN ACT** relating to absentee ballots delivered to applicants who are patients or residents of hospitals or health care facilities.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. Section 53.8, subsection 3, Code 2009, is amended to read as follows:

3. a. When an application for an absentee ballot is received by the commissioner of any county from a registered voter who is a patient in a hospital in that county or a resident of any facility in that county shown to be a health care facility by the list of licenses provided the commissioner under section 135C.29, the absentee ballot shall be delivered to the voter and returned to the commissioner in the manner prescribed by section 53.22. ~~However, if~~

b. (1) If the application is received more than five days before the ballots are printed and the commissioner has elected to have the ballots personally delivered during the ten-day period after the ballots are printed, the commissioner shall mail to the applicant within twenty-four hours a letter in substantially the following form:

Your application for an absentee ballot for the election to be held on . . . . . has been received. This ballot will be personally delivered to you by a bipartisan team some time during the ten days after the ballots are printed. If you will not be at the address from which your application was sent during any or all of the ten-day period immediately following