

The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (HR 2454)

Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Fund Summary

Subtitle B – Disposition of Allowances, Sec. 782 Allocation of Emission Allowances

p. 877

This section allocates emissions allowances to the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Fund:

“For vintage year 2012 and thereafter, the Administrator shall auction, pursuant to section 791, 0.1 percent of the emission allowances established for each year under section 721(a), and shall deposit the proceeds in the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Fund established by section 467 of the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009.”

Subtitle E – Adapting to Climate Change, Subpart B – Public Health and Climate Change, Sec. 461-467

pp. 1302-1316

Sec. 461 – This is a sense of the Congress expressing that the Federal Government should use all practicable means and measures to assist the efforts of public health and health care professionals, first responders, States, tribes, municipalities, and local communities to incorporate measures to prepare health systems to respond to the impacts of climate change; ensure that health professionals have sufficient information to prepare for and respond to adverse health impacts of climate change; encourage further research regarding the health impacts of climate change; enhance preparedness related to climate change and health; encourage Americans to learn about the impacts of climate change on health; and assist developing nations to prepare health systems to respond to the impacts of climate change.

Sec. 462 – This section clarifies that the language included in this subpart does not limit authority provided to or responsibility conferred on any Federal department or agency by any existing law, nor does it authorize any violation of existing law.

Sec. 463 – This section requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (through consultation with other departments and agencies) to publish a national strategic action plan to assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change on public health. The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other agencies, shall assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the health effects of climate change through measures including: developing, improving, integrating and maintaining disease surveillance systems; creating tools for predicting and monitoring the public health effects of climate change; developing communications strategies and outreach programs; identifying and prioritizing vulnerable communities and determining actions that should be taken to inform and protect them from the health effects of climate change; developing academic and regional centers of excellence devoted to climate change and health; assessing climate change public health preparedness and response strategies through techniques that include health impact assessment; assisting in the development and implementation of State,

regional, tribal and local preparedness, communication and response plans; creating a program to advance climate and health research; and any other activities determined appropriate by the Secretary. This section also directs the CDC to conduct research on climate change and public health and to fund research on the health effects of climate change; preparedness planning; and other appropriate activities.

Sec. 464 – This section calls for the Secretary to establish a permanent science advisory board to: provide scientific and technical advice and recommendations to the Secretary on the impacts of climate change on public health, populations and regions particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and strategies and mechanisms to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change on public health; and to advise the Secretary on the best science available.

Sec. 465 – This Section requires the Secretary to enter into an agreement with the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine to complete a report that assesses the need for health professionals to prepare for and respond to climate change impacts on public health and that recommends programs to meet those needs. The agreement shall require that the completed report be submitted to Congress and the Secretary and be made publicly available. The Secretary must also submit to Congress and make publicly available reports to aid health professionals in preparing for and responding to the adverse health effects of climate change.

Sec. 466 – This section defines health impact assessment and national strategic action plan.

Sec. 467 – This section establishes the Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Fund. It stipulates that all amounts deposited into the Fund shall be available to the Secretary to carry out this subpart subject to further appropriation. It permits the Secretary to make funds deposited into the Fund available to other departments, agencies, and offices of the Federal government; foreign, State, tribal and local governments; and such other entities as the Secretary determines appropriate. The legislation also stipulates that it is the intent of Congress that funds made available to carry out this subpart should be used to supplement, and not replace, existing sources of public health funding.