

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

## **RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-20**

### **TEXT OF H.R. 4626, HOME APPLIANCE PROTECTION AND AFFORDABILITY ACT**

**[Showing the text of H.R. 4626, as reported by the Committee  
on Energy and Commerce, with modifications]**

#### **1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Home Appliance Protection and Affordability Act”.

#### **4 SEC. 2. PRESCRIBING NEW OR AMENDED ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS.**

6 (a) AMENDMENT OF STANDARDS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 325(m)(1) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(m)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, for any product, publish a notice of proposed rulemaking including new proposed standards for such product based on the criteria established under subsection (o) and the procedures established under subsection (p).”.

16 (2) AMENDMENT OF STANDARD.—Section 325(m)(3) of the Energy Policy and Conservation

1       Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(m)(3)) is amended to read as  
2       follows:

3           “(3) AMENDMENT OF STANDARD.—Not later  
4       than 2 years after a notice is issued under para-  
5       graph (1), the Secretary shall publish a final rule  
6       amending the standard for the product.”.

7           (3) APPLICATION TO PRODUCTS.—Section  
8       325(m)(4) of the Energy Policy and Conservation  
9       Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(m)(4)) is amended to read as  
10      follows:

11           “(4) APPLICATION TO PRODUCTS.—An amend-  
12       ment prescribed under this subsection shall apply to  
13       a product that is manufactured after the date that  
14       is 5 years after publication of the final rule estab-  
15       lishing an applicable standard.”.

16           (b) PETITION FOR AMENDED STANDARD.—Section  
17       325(n) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42  
18       U.S.C. 6295(n)) is amended—

19           (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AN  
20       AMENDED STANDARD” and inserting “AMENDMENT  
21       OR REVOCATION OF STANDARD”;

22           (2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or revoked”  
23       after “should be amended”;

24           (3) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-  
25       lows:

1       “(2) The Secretary shall grant a petition to deter-  
2 mine if standards for a covered product should be amend-  
3 ed or revoked if the Secretary finds that such petition con-  
4 tains evidence, assuming no other evidence were consid-  
5 ered, that such standards—

6           “(A) result in additional costs to consumers;

7           “(B) do not result in significant conservation of  
8 energy or water;

9           “(C) are not technologically feasible; and

10           “(D) result in such covered product not being  
11 commercially available in the United States to all  
12 consumers.”;

13           (4) in paragraph (4)—

14           (A) by striking “NEW OR AMENDED  
15 STANDARDS.” and inserting “NEW, AMENDED,  
16 OR REVOKED STANDARDS.”;

17           (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)  
18 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively (and  
19 by conforming the margins accordingly);

20           (C) by striking “Not later than 3 years”  
21 and inserting the following:

22           “(A) Not later than 3 years”; and

23           (D) by adding at the end the following:

24           “(B) Not later than 180 days after the  
25 date of granting a petition to revoke standards,

1                   the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Reg-  
2                   ister—

3                                   “(i) a final rule revoking the stand-  
4                                   ards; or

5                                   “(ii) a determination that it is not  
6                                   necessary to revoke the standards.

7                                   “(C) The grant of a petition by the Sec-  
8                                   retary under this subsection creates no pre-  
9                                   sumption with respect to the Secretary’s deter-  
10                                   mination of any of the criteria in a rulemaking  
11                                   under this section.

12                                   “(D) Standards that have been revoked  
13                                   pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall be consid-  
14                                   ered to be in effect for purposes of section  
15                                   327.”; and

16                                   (5) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “3 years  
17                                   (for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers,  
18                                   room air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes washers,  
19                                   clothes dryers, fluorescent lamp ballasts, general  
20                                   service fluorescent lamps, incandescent reflector  
21                                   lamps, and kitchen ranges and ovens) or 5 years (for  
22                                   central air conditioners and heat pumps, water heat-  
23                                   ers, pool heaters, direct heating equipment and fur-  
24                                   naces)” and inserting “5 years”;

1       (c) CRITERIA.—Section 325(o) of the Energy Policy  
2 and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(o)) is amended by  
3 amending paragraphs (2) and (3) to read as follows:

4           “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

5           “(A) DESIGN.—Any new or amended en-  
6 ergy conservation standard prescribed by the  
7 Secretary under this section for any type (or  
8 class) of covered product shall be designed to  
9 achieve the maximum improvement in, as appli-  
10 cable, energy efficiency or water efficiency,  
11 which the Secretary determines is technolo-  
12 gically feasible and economically justified.

13           “(B) TEST PROCEDURES.—If the Sec-  
14 retary determines that a test procedure should  
15 be prescribed or amended in accordance with  
16 section 323 for a type (or class) of covered  
17 product, the Secretary may not prescribe a new  
18 or amended energy conservation standard under  
19 this section for such type (or class) of covered  
20 product unless the Secretary has prescribed or  
21 amended (and published in the Federal Reg-  
22 ister) a test procedure for such type (or class)  
23 of covered product at least 180 days before  
24 publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking with

1 respect to the new or amended energy conserva-  
2 tion standard.

3 “(C) SIGNIFICANT CONSERVATION.—The  
4 Secretary may not prescribe a new or amended  
5 energy conservation standard under this section  
6 for a type (or class) of covered product if the  
7 Secretary determines that the establishment  
8 and imposition of such energy conservation  
9 standard will not result in significant conserva-  
10 tion of, as applicable, energy or water.

11 “(D) TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE AND  
12 ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIED.—The Secretary  
13 may not prescribe a new or amended energy  
14 conservation standard under this section for a  
15 type (or class) of covered product unless the  
16 Secretary determines that the establishment  
17 and imposition of such energy conservation  
18 standard is technologically feasible and eco-  
19 nomically justified.

20 “(E) DISCLOSURE.—The Secretary may  
21 not prescribe a new or amended energy con-  
22 servation standard under this section for a type  
23 (or class) of covered product unless the Sec-  
24 retary, not later than the date on which the  
25 standard is prescribed, publicly discloses each

1 meeting held by the Secretary, during the 5-  
2 year period preceding such date, with any entity  
3 that—

4 “(i) has ties to the People’s Republic  
5 of China or the Chinese Communist Party;

6 “(ii) has produced studies regarding,  
7 or advocated for, regulations or policy to  
8 limit, restrict, or ban the use of any type  
9 of energy; and

10 “(iii) has applied for or received Fed-  
11 eral funds.

12 “(3) FACTORS FOR DETERMINATION.—

13 “(A) ECONOMIC ANALYSIS.—

14 “(i) DETERMINATION.—Prior to pre-  
15 scribing any new or amended energy con-  
16 servation standard under this section for  
17 any type (or class) of covered product, the  
18 Secretary shall conduct a quantitative eco-  
19 nomic impact analysis of imposition of the  
20 energy conservation standard that deter-  
21 mines the predicted—

22 “(I) effects of imposition of the  
23 energy conservation standard on costs  
24 and monetary benefits to consumers

1 of the products subject to such energy  
2 conservation standard, including—

5 “(bb) variations in costs to  
6 consumers based on differences  
7 in regions, including rural popu-  
8 lations, cost of living compari-  
9 sons, and climatic differences;

1       determine that imposition of an energy con-  
2       servation standard is economically justified un-  
3       less the Secretary, based on an economic anal-  
4       ysis under subparagraph (A), determines that—

5               “(i) imposition of such energy con-  
6       servation standard is not likely to result in  
7       additional net costs to the consumer, in-  
8       cluding any increase in net costs associated  
9       with the purchase, installation, mainte-  
10       nance, disposal, and replacement of the  
11       covered product; and

12               “(ii) the monetary value of the energy  
13       savings and, as applicable, water savings,  
14       that the consumer will receive as a result  
15       of such energy conservation standard dur-  
16       ing the first 3 years after purchasing and  
17       installing a covered product complying with  
18       such energy conservation standard, as cal-  
19       culated under the applicable test proce-  
20       dure, will be greater than any increased  
21       costs to the consumer of the covered prod-  
22       uct due to imposition of such energy con-  
23       servation standard, including increased  
24       costs associated with the purchase, instal-

1 lation, maintenance, disposal, and replace-  
2 ment of the covered product.

13                             “(D) CRITERIA RELATED TO PERFORMANCE.

14                             ANCE.—The Secretary may not determine that

15                             imposition of an energy conservation standard

16                             is economically justified unless the Secretary

17                             determines that imposition of such energy con-

18                             servation standard will not result in any less-

19                             ening of the utility or the performance of the

20                             applicable covered product, taking into consid-

21                             eration the effects of such energy conservation

22                             standard on—

1                         “(ii) the life span of the covered prod-  
2                         uct;  
3                         “(iii) the operating conditions of the  
4                         covered product;  
5                         “(iv) the duty cycle, charging time,  
6                         and run time of the covered product, as  
7                         applicable;  
8                         “(v) the maintenance requirements of  
9                         the covered product; and  
10                         “(vi) the replacement and disposal re-  
11                         quirements for the covered product.

12                         “(E) TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION.—The  
13                         Secretary may not determine that imposition of  
14                         an energy conservation standard is economically  
15                         justified unless the Secretary determines that  
16                         imposition of such energy conservation standard  
17                         is not likely to result in the unavailability in the  
18                         United States of a type (or class) of products  
19                         based on what type of fuel the product con-  
20                         sumes.

21                         “(F) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—

22                         “(i) IN GENERAL.—In determining  
23                         whether imposition of an energy conserva-  
24                         tion standard is economically justified, the  
25                         Secretary—

1                         “(I) shall prioritize the interests  
2                         of consumers;

3                         “(II) may not consider estimates  
4                         of the social costs or social benefits  
5                         associated with incremental green-  
6                         house gas emissions; and

7                         “(III) shall consider—

8                         “(aa) the economic impact,  
9                         including any regulatory burden,  
10                         of the standard on the manufac-  
11                         turers and on the consumers of  
12                         the products subject to such  
13                         standard;

14                         “(bb) the savings in oper-  
15                         ating costs, including consumer  
16                         fuel costs, throughout the esti-  
17                         mated average life of the covered  
18                         product in the type (or class)  
19                         compared to any increase in the  
20                         price of, or in the initial charges  
21                         for, or maintenance expenses of,  
22                         the covered products which are  
23                         likely to result from the imposi-  
24                         tion of the standard;

1                             “(cc) the total projected  
2                             amount of energy, or, as applica-  
3                             ble, water, savings likely to result  
4                             directly from the imposition of  
5                             the standard;

6                             “(dd) the need for national  
7                             energy and water conservation;

8                             “(ee) the impact of any less-  
9                             ening of market competition, as  
10                            determined in writing by the At-  
11                            torney General under clause (ii),  
12                            that is likely to result from the  
13                            imposition of the standard;

14                            “(ff) whether the imposition  
15                            of the energy conservation stand-  
16                            ard is likely to result price dis-  
17                            crimination; and

18                            “(gg) other factors the Sec-  
19                            retary considers relevant.

20                            “(ii) ATTORNEY GENERAL DETER-  
21                            MINATION.—For purposes of clause  
22                            (i)(III)(ee), the Attorney General shall  
23                            make a determination of the impact, if  
24                            any, of any lessening of market competi-  
25                            tion likely to result from such standard

1 and shall transmit such determination, not  
2 later than 60 days after the publication of  
3 a proposed rule prescribing or amending  
4 an energy conservation standard, in writ-  
5 ing to the Secretary, together with an  
6 analysis of the nature and extent of such  
7 impact. Any such determination and anal-  
8 ysis shall be published by the Secretary in  
9 the Federal Register.

## 10                   “(G) REGULATORY REVIEW.—

21                             “(ii) EFFECT.—Notwithstanding any other  
22 provision of this part, if the Secretary deter-  
23 mines, based on an evaluation under clause (i),  
24 that an energy conservation standard is not

1                   technologically feasible or economically justi-  
2                   fied—

3                   “(I) the Secretary shall publish such  
4                   determination and such energy conserva-  
5                   tion standard shall have no force or effect  
6                   (except that such energy conservation  
7                   standard shall be considered to be in effect  
8                   for purposes of section 327); and

9                   “(II) the Secretary may publish a  
10                  final rule amending the energy conserva-  
11                  tion standard for the type (or class) of cov-  
12                  ered product to be technologically feasible  
13                  and economically justified in accordance  
14                  with this subsection, which amendment  
15                  shall apply to such a product that is manu-  
16                  factured after the date that is 3 years  
17                  after publication of such final rule.”.

18           (d) APPLICABILITY OF REGIONAL STANDARDS.—Sec-  
19           tion 325(o)(6)(E)(ii) of the Energy Policy and Conserva-  
20           tion Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(o)(6)(E)(ii)) is amended by  
21           striking “shall apply to any such product installed on or  
22           after the effective date of the standard in States in which  
23           the Secretary has designated the standard to apply” and  
24           inserting “shall apply, in States in which the Secretary  
25           has designated the standard to apply, to any such product

1 that is manufactured or imported into the United States  
2 on or after the effective date of the standard".

3 (e) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

4 (1) DEFINITIONS.—

5 (A) CONSUMER PRODUCT.—Section  
6 321(1)(A) of the Energy Policy and Conserva-  
7 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 6291(1)(A)) is amended by  
8 striking “, with respect to showerheads, faucets,  
9 water closets, and urinals, water” and inserting  
10 “water, as applicable”.

11 (B) ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARD.—  
12 Section 321(6)(A) of the Energy Policy and  
13 Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291(6)(A)) is  
14 amended by striking “, or, in the case of  
15 showerheads, faucets, water closets, and ur-  
16 nals, water use,” and inserting “or water use,  
17 as applicable.”.

18 (C) ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING  
19 COST.—Section 321(7) of the Energy Policy  
20 and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291(7)) is  
21 amended by striking “in the case of  
22 showerheads, faucets, water closets, and ur-  
23 nals” and inserting “, as applicable”.

24 (2) TEST PROCEDURES.—

9 (B) CALCULATION OF COSTS.—Section  
10 323(b)(4) of the Energy Policy and Conserva-  
11 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 6293(b)(4)) is amended  
12 by—

13 (i) by striking “or, in the case of  
14 showerheads, faucets, water closets, or urin-  
15 nals,” and inserting “or, as applicable,”;  
16 and

17 (ii) by striking “or in the case of  
18 showerheads, faucets, water closets, or ur-  
19 nals,” and inserting “or, as applicable.”.

20 (C) RESTRICTION ON CERTAIN REPRESENTATIONS.—Section 323(c) of the Energy Policy  
21 and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6293(c) is  
22 amended—  
23

24 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “ or,  
25 in the case of showerheads, faucets, water

3 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “ or,  
4 in the case of showerheads, faucets, water  
5 closets, and urinals,” and inserting “or, as  
6 applicable.”

## 12 SEC. 3. DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS.

13       Section 346 of the Energy Policy and Conservation  
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 6317) is amended by adding at the end  
15 the following:

16        "(g) NO NEW OR REVISED STANDARDS FOR DIS-  
17 TRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS.—

1               “(2) EFFECT ON EXISTING STANDARDS.—Para-  
2       graph (1) does not affect any energy conservation  
3       standards prescribed under part B or this part be-  
4       fore the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

5 **SEC. 4. DISHWASHERS; CLOTHES WASHERS.**

6       Section 325(g) of the Energy Policy and Conserva-  
7       tion Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(g)) is amended—

8               (1) in paragraph (9)(B), by adding at the end  
9       the following:

10               “(iii) OTHER AMENDMENTS TO  
11       STANDARDS.—The Secretary may prescribe  
12       a new or amended energy conservation  
13       standard for clothes washers in accordance  
14       with this section, including—

15               “(I) a design requirement; and

16               “(II) a performance standard  
17       which prescribes one of the following:

18               “(aa) A minimum level of  
19       energy efficiency.

20               “(bb) A maximum quantity  
21       of energy use.

22               “(cc) A minimum level of  
23       water efficiency.

24               “(dd) A maximum quantity  
25       of water use.

1                             “(ee) A minimum level of  
2                             energy efficiency and a minimum  
3                             level of water efficiency.

4                             “(ff) A maximum quantity  
5                             of energy use and a maximum  
6                             quantity of water use.”; and

7                             (2) in paragraph (10)(B), by adding at the end  
8                             the following:

9                             “(iii) OTHER AMENDMENTS TO  
10                             STANDARDS.—The Secretary may prescribe  
11                             a new or amended energy conservation  
12                             standard for dishwashers in accordance  
13                             with this section, including—

14                             “(I) a design requirement; and

15                             “(II) a performance standard  
16                             which prescribes one of the following:

17                             “(aa) A minimum level of  
18                             energy efficiency.

19                             “(bb) A maximum quantity  
20                             of energy use.

21                             “(cc) A minimum level of  
22                             water efficiency.

23                             “(dd) A maximum quantity  
24                             of water use.

1 “(ee) A minimum level of  
2 energy efficiency and a minimum  
3 level of water efficiency.

4 “(ff) A maximum quantity  
5 of energy use and a maximum  
6 quantity of water use.”.