

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1986

To amend the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on source of income, veteran status, or military status.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26, 2019

Mr. KAINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on source of income, veteran status, or military status.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fair Housing Improve-
5 ment Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING HOUSING DISCRIMINATION BASED**
7 **ON SOURCE OF INCOME, VETERAN STATUS,**
8 **OR MILITARY STATUS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C.
10 3601 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 802 (42 U.S.C. 3602), by adding
2 at the end the following:

3 “(p) ‘Military status’ means a member of the uni-
4 formed services, as defined in section 101 of title 10,
5 United States Code.

6 “(q) ‘Source of income’ includes—

7 “(1) a housing voucher under section 8 of the
8 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
9 1437f) and any form of Federal, State, or local
10 housing assistance provided to a person or family or
11 provided to a housing owner on behalf of a person
12 or family, including rental vouchers, rental assist-
13 ance, and rental subsidies from nongovernmental or-
14 ganizations;

15 “(2) income received as a monthly benefit
16 under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
17 401 et seq.), as a supplemental security income ben-
18 efit under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42
19 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), or as a benefit under the Rail-
20 road Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231 et
21 seq.);

22 “(3) income received by court order, including
23 spousal support and child support;

24 “(4) any payment from a trust, guardian, con-
25 servator, or other relative; and

1 “(5) any other lawful source of income or
2 funds, including savings accounts and investments.

3 “(r) ‘Veteran status’ means a veteran, as defined in
4 section 101 of title 38, United States Code.”;

5 (2) in section 804 (42 U.S.C. 3604)—

6 (A) by inserting “source of income, veteran
7 status, military status,” after “familial status,”
8 each place that term appears; and

9 (B) in subsection (c)—

10 (i) by inserting “(1)” before “To
11 make”; and

12 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(2) Nothing in this title shall be construed to—

15 “(A) prohibit a lender from implementing a
16 loan program for veterans or based upon veteran
17 status or military status; or

18 “(B) prohibit an entity from providing housing
19 assistance under section 8(o)(19) of the United
20 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
21 1437f(o)(19)), the Homeless Providers Grant and
22 Per Diem program of the Department of Veterans
23 Affairs, or any other Federal housing assistance pro-
24 gram for veterans or based upon veteran status or
25 military status.”;

1 (3) in section 805 (42 U.S.C. 3605)—

2 (A) in subsection (a), by inserting “source
3 of income, veteran status, military status,”
4 after “familial status,”; and

5 (B) in subsection (c), by inserting “source
6 of income, veteran status, military status,”
7 after “handicap,”;

8 (4) in section 806 (42 U.S.C. 3606), by insert-
9 ing “source of income, veteran status, military sta-
10 tus,” after “familial status,”;

11 (5) in section 808(e)(6) (42 U.S.C. 3608(e)(6)),
12 by inserting “source of income, veteran status, mili-
13 tary status,” after “handicap,”; and

14 (6) in section 810(f) (42 U.S.C. 3610(f)), by
15 striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

16 “(4) During the period beginning on the date of en-
17 actment of the Fair Housing Improvement Act of 2019
18 and ending on the date that is 40 months after such date
19 of enactment, each agency certified for purposes of this
20 title on the day before such date of enactment shall, for
21 purposes of this subsection, be considered certified under
22 this subsection with respect to those matters for which the
23 agency was certified on that date. If the Secretary deter-
24 mines in an individual case that an agency has not been
25 able to meet the certification requirements within this 40-

1 month period due to exceptional circumstances, such as
2 the infrequency of legislative sessions in that jurisdiction,
3 the Secretary may extend such period by not more than
4 6 months.”.

5 (b) PREVENTION OF INTIMIDATION IN FAIR HOUS-
6 ING CASES.—Section 901 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968
7 (42 U.S.C. 3631) is amended by inserting “source of in-
8 come (as defined in section 802), veteran status (as de-
9 fined in section 802), military status (as defined in section
10 802),” before “or national origin” each place that term
11 appears.

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