

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6760

To authorize assistance for fair housing enforcement activities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2020

Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself and Ms. WATERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize assistance for fair housing enforcement activities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

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 Further
5 Enforcement Emergency Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY PERIOD.**

7 For purposes of this Act, the term “COVID-19 emer-
8 gency period” means the period that begins upon the date

1 of the enactment of this Act and ends upon the date of
2 the termination by the Federal Emergency Management
3 Agency of the emergency declared on March 13, 2020, by
4 the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
5 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 4121 et seq.)
6 relating to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
7 pandemic.

8 **SEC. 3. FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES.**

9 (a) FHIP; FHAP.—

10 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
11 ensure that fair housing organizations and State and
12 local civil rights agencies have sufficient resources to
13 deal with expected increases in fair housing com-
14 plaints, to investigate housing discrimination, includ-
15 ing financial scams that target protected classes as-
16 sociated with or resulting from the COVID-19 pan-
17 demic, and during such pandemic, there is author-
18 ized to be appropriated for contracts, grants, and
19 other assistance—

20 (A) \$54,000,000 for the Fair Housing Ini-
21 tiatives Program under section 561 of the
22 Housing and Community Development Act of
23 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3616a); and

1 (B) \$33,500,000 for the Fair Housing As-
2 sistance Program under the Fair Housing Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.).

4 Amounts made available pursuant to this paragraph
5 may be used by such organizations and agencies to
6 establish the capacity to and to carry out activities
7 and services by telephone and online means, includ-
8 ing for individuals with limited English proficiency
9 and individuals with a disability in accordance with
10 requirements under the Americans With Disabilities
11 Act of 1990.

12 (2) PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE.—In
13 entering into contracts for private enforcement ini-
14 tiatives under 561(b) of the Housing and Commu-
15 nity Development Act of 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3616a(b))
16 using amounts made available pursuant to para-
17 graph (1)(A) of this subsection, the Secretary of
18 Housing and Urban Development shall give priority
19 to applications from qualified fair housing enforce-
20 ment organizations that have at least 2 years of fair
21 housing testing experience.

22 (3) 3-YEAR AVAILABILITY.—Any amounts made
23 available pursuant paragraph (1) that are allocated
24 for a grantee and remain unexpended upon the expi-

1 ration of the 3-year period beginning upon such allo-
2 cation shall be recaptured by the Secretary.

3 (b) OFFICE OF FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPOR-
4 TUNITY.—There is authorized to be appropriated
5 \$200,000,000 for the Office of Fair Housing and Equal
6 Opportunity of the Department of Housing and Urban
7 Development for costs of fully staffing such Office to en-
8 sure robust enforcement of the Fair Housing Act during
9 the COVID-19 pandemic, including ensuring that—

10 (1) assistance provided under this Act is pro-
11 vided and administered in a manner that affirma-
12 tively furthers fair housing in accordance with the
13 Fair Housing Act;

14 (2) such Office has sufficient capacity for in-
15 take of housing discrimination complaints by tele-
16 phone and online mechanisms, including for individ-
17 uals with limited English proficiency and individuals
18 with a disability in accordance with requirements
19 under the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990
20 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
21 (29 U.S.C. 794); and

22 (3) such Office has the capacity to respond to
23 all housing discrimination complaints made during
24 the COVID-19 pandemic within time limitations re-
25 quired under law.

1 In the hiring of staff using amounts made available pursu-
2 ant to this subsection, the Secretary of Housing and
3 Urban Development shall consider and hire, at all levels
4 of employment and to the greatest extent possible, a di-
5 verse staff, including by race, ethnicity, gender, and dis-
6 ability status. The Secretary shall submit a report to the
7 Congress describing compliance with the preceding sen-
8 tence on a quarterly basis, for each of the first 4 calendar
9 quarters ending after the date of the enactment of this
10 Act.

11 **SEC. 4. FAIR HOUSING GUIDANCE AND EDUCATION.**

12 (a) PROHIBITION OF SHOWINGS.—Not later than the
13 expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date of
14 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and
15 Urban Development shall issue guidance for owners of
16 dwelling units assisted under housing assistance programs
17 of the Department prohibiting, during the COVID-19
18 emergency period, of any showings of occupied assisted
19 dwelling units to prospective tenants.

20 (b) EDUCATION.—There is authorized to be appro-
21 priated \$10,000,000 for the Office of Fair Housing and
22 Equal Opportunity of the Department of Housing and
23 Urban Development to carry out a national media cam-
24 paign to educate the public of increased housing rights
25 during the COVID-19 emergency period, that provides

- 1 that information and materials used in such campaign are
2 available—
- 3 (1) in the languages used by communities with
4 limited English proficiency; and
5 (2) to persons with disabilities.

