

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1772

To establish the Task Force on the Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2019

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. JONES, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Task Force on the Impact of the Affordable
Housing Crisis, 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 “Task Force on the
5 Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE OF TASK FORCE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to establish the Task Force
3 on the Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis, which
4 shall—

5 (1) evaluate and quantify the impact that a
6 lack of affordable housing has on other areas of life
7 and life outcomes;

8 (2) evaluate and quantify the costs incurred by
9 other Federal, State, and local programs due to a
10 lack of affordable housing; and

11 (3) make recommendations to Congress on how
12 to use affordable housing to improve the effective-
13 ness of other Federal programs and improve life out-
14 comes.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) AFFORDABLE HOUSING.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “affordable
19 housing” means—

20 (i) housing for which the household is
21 required to pay not more than 30 percent
22 of the household income for gross housing
23 costs, including utilities, where such in-
24 come is less than or equal to the area me-
25 dian income for the municipality in which

1 the housing is located, as determined by
2 the Secretary; and

3 (ii) housing—

4 (I) for which the household pays
5 more than 30 percent of the house-
6 hold income for gross housing costs,
7 including utilities, where such income
8 is less than or equal to the area me-
9 dian income for the municipality in
10 which the housing is located, as deter-
11 mined by the Secretary; and

12 (II) that is assisted or considered
13 affordable by the Department of
14 Housing and Urban Development, in-
15 cluding—

16 (aa) public housing;

17 (bb) housing assisted under
18 section 8(o) of such Act (42
19 U.S.C. 1437f(o));

20 (cc) housing receiving the
21 low-income housing credit under
22 section 42 of the Internal Rev-
23 enue Code; and

24 (dd) housing assisted under
25 other Federal or local housing

1 programs serving households with
 2 incomes at or below 80 percent of
 3 the area median income or pro-
 4 viding services or amenities that
 5 will primarily be used by low-in-
 6 come housing.

7 (B) APPLICATION.—The definition in sub-
 8 paragraph (A) shall apply to Federal, State,
 9 and local affordable housing programs.

10 (2) LOW-INCOME HOUSING; PUBLIC HOUSING.—
 11 The terms “low-income housing” and “public hous-
 12 ing” have the meanings given those terms in section
 13 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42
 14 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

15 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 16 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

17 (4) TASK FORCE.—The term “Task Force”
 18 means the Task Force on the Impact of the Afford-
 19 able Housing Crisis established under section 4(a).

20 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a bipar-
 22 tisan task force to be known as the Task Force on the
 23 Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis.

24 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall be
2 composed of 18 members, of whom—

3 (A) 1 member shall be appointed by the
4 Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker
5 of the House of Representatives, who shall
6 serve as co-chair of the Task Force;

7 (B) 1 member shall be appointed by the
8 Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority
9 Leader of the House of Representatives, who
10 shall serve as co-chair of the Task Force;

11 (C) 4 members shall be appointed by the
12 Majority Leader of the Senate;

13 (D) 4 members shall be appointed by the
14 Minority Leader of the Senate;

15 (E) 4 members shall be appointed by the
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

17 (F) 4 members shall be appointed by the
18 Minority Leader of the House of Representa-
19 tives.

20 (2) CRITERIA.—Each member of the Task
21 Force shall be an academic researcher, an expert in
22 a field or policy area related to the purpose of the
23 Task Force, or an individual who has experience
24 with government programs related to the purpose of
25 the Task Force.

1 (3) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—The co-chairs of the
2 Task Force may appoint and fix the pay of addi-
3 tional staff to the Task Force.

4 (4) DETAILEES.—Any Federal Government em-
5 ployee may be detailed to the Task Force without re-
6 imbursement from the Task Force, and the detailee
7 shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of his
8 or her regular employment without interruption.

9 (5) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Members of
10 the Task Force may be allowed travel expenses, in-
11 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates au-
12 thorized for employees of agencies under subchapter
13 I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
14 away from their homes or regular places of business
15 in the performance of services for the Task Force.

16 (c) TIMING OF APPOINTMENTS.—Appointments to
17 the Task Force shall be made not later than 180 days
18 after the date of enactment of this Act.

19 (d) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Task
21 Force shall be appointed for the life of the Task
22 Force.

23 (2) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Task
24 Force—

1 (A) shall not affect the powers of the Task
2 Force; and

3 (B) shall be filled in the same manner as
4 the original appointment.

5 (e) INITIAL MEETING.—The Task Force shall meet
6 not later than 30 days after the date on which a majority
7 of the members of the Task Force have been appointed.

8 (f) MEETINGS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall meet
10 at the call of the co-chairs of the Task Force.

11 (2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
12 the Task Force shall constitute a quorum, but a
13 lesser number of members may hold hearings.

14 **SEC. 5. DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall utilize avail-
16 able survey and statistical data related to the purpose of
17 the Task Force to complete a comprehensive report to—

18 (1) evaluate and quantify the impact that a
19 lack of affordable housing has on other areas of life
20 and life outcomes for individuals living in the United
21 States, including—

22 (A) education;

23 (B) employment;

24 (C) income level;

25 (D) health;

1 (E) nutrition;

2 (F) access to transportation;

3 (G) the poverty level of the neighborhood
4 in which individuals live;

5 (H) regional economic growth;

6 (I) neighborhood and rural community sta-
7 bility and revitalization; and

8 (J) other areas of life and life outcomes re-
9 lated to the purpose of the Task Force nec-
10 essary to complete a comprehensive report;

11 (2) evaluate and quantify the costs incurred by
12 other Federal, State, and local programs due to a
13 lack of affordable housing; and

14 (3) make recommendations to Congress on how
15 to use affordable housing to improve the effective-
16 ness of other Federal programs and improve life out-
17 comes for individuals living in the United States.

18 (b) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Task Force shall pub-
19 lish in the Federal Register a notice for a public comment
20 period of 90 days on the purpose and activities of the Task
21 Force.

22 (c) REPORT.—Not later than the date on which the
23 Task Force terminates, the Task Force shall submit to
24 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
25 and the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the

1 Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on
2 Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and
3 make publicly available a final report that—

4 (1) contains the information, evaluations, and
5 recommendations described in subsection (a); and

6 (2) is signed by each member of the Task
7 Force.

8 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF TASK FORCE.**

9 (a) HEARINGS.—The Task Force may hold such
10 hearings, take such testimony, and receive such evidence
11 as the Task Force considers advisable to carry out this
12 Act.

13 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force may secure
15 directly from any Federal department or agency
16 such information as the Task Force considers nec-
17 essary to carry out this Act.

18 (2) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—On request of
19 the co-chairs of the Task Force, the head of a Fed-
20 eral department or agency described in paragraph
21 (1) shall furnish the information to the Task Force.

22 (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Task Force may use the
23 United States mails in the same manner and under the
24 same conditions as other Federal departments and agen-
25 cies.

1 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF TASK FORCE.**

2 The Task Force shall terminate not later than 2
3 years after the date on which all members of the Task
4 Force are appointed under section 4.

5 **SEC. 8. FUNDING.**

6 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
7 as may be necessary to carry out this Act for fiscal years
8 2020 through 2023.

○