

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2638

To establish a grant program to provide amounts to public housing agencies to install automatic sprinkler systems in public housing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2021

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. CARSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To establish a grant program to provide amounts to public housing agencies to install automatic sprinkler systems in public housing, 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 “Public Housing Fire
5 Safety Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

1 (1) the term “automatic sprinkler system” has
2 the meaning given the term in section 31(a) of the
3 Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
4 (15 U.S.C. 2227(a));

5 (2) the term “Capital Fund” means the Capital
6 Fund established under section 9(d) of the United
7 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d));

8 (3) the term “exempted public housing project”
9 means a public housing project that—

10 (A) is not a newly constructed multifamily
11 property, as defined in section 31(c)(2)(A)(ii) of
12 the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of
13 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2227(c)(2)(A)(ii)); and

14 (B) is not subject to the requirements
15 under section 31(c) of the Federal Fire Preven-
16 tion and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
17 2227(c));

18 (4) the terms “public housing” and “public
19 housing agency” have the meanings given those
20 terms in section 3(b) of the United States Housing
21 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)); and

22 (5) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
23 of Housing and Urban Development.

1 **SEC. 3. INSPECTIONS OF PUBLIC HOUSING.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to inspections of
3 public housing conducted by the Secretary, including
4 through the Real Estate Assessment Center, the Secretary
5 shall report on the presence or absence of automatic sprin-
6 kler systems in the public housing.

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
8 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, based on
9 inspections of public housing conducted during the 3-year
10 period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, sub-
11 mit to Congress a report on the presence or absence of
12 automatic sprinkler systems in public housing, in par-
13 ticular in exempted public housing projects, which shall
14 include recommendations to improve fire safety in exempt-
15 ed public housing projects.

16 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
17 tion shall be construed to require a public housing agency
18 to install an automatic sprinkler system in an exempted
19 public housing project.

20 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM TO RETROFIT PUBLIC HOUSING**
21 **WITH AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
23 a competitive grant program under which the Secretary
24 shall award grants to public housing agencies to install
25 automatic sprinkler systems in exempted public housing
26 projects.

1 (b) LIMITATION.—A public housing agency may not
2 use amounts received under this section to install auto-
3 matic sprinkler systems in a rebuilt multifamily property,
4 as defined in section 31(c)(2)(B)(iii) of the Federal Fire
5 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
6 2227(c)(2)(B)(iii)).

7 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
8 tion to amounts appropriated to the Capital Fund under
9 any other provision of law, there is authorized to be appro-
10 priated to the Capital Fund \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal
11 years 2022 through 2031 to carry out this section.

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