

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1674

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2021

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 Enforce-
5 ment Emergency Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES.**

7 (a) **DEFINITION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY PE-**
8 **RIOD.**—For purposes of this section, the term “COVID-

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

9 (b) FHIP; FHAP.—

10 (1) APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of any money in
11 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is
12 appropriated to ensure that fair housing organiza-
13 tions and State and local civil rights agencies have
14 sufficient resources to deal with expected increases
15 in fair housing complaints, to investigate housing
16 discrimination, including financial scams that target
17 protected classes, associated with or resulting from
18 the COVID-19 pandemic, and during such pan-
19 demic, for contracts, grants, and other assistance—

20 (A) \$39,740,000 for fiscal year 2021 for
21 the Fair Housing Initiatives Program under
22 section 561 of the Housing and Community De-
23 velopment Act of 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3616a), of
24 which—

1 (i) \$8,740,000 shall be available for
2 assistance under subsection (d) of such
3 section 561 for education and outreach ac-
4 tivities;

5 (ii) \$18,500,000 shall be available for
6 private enforcement initiatives under sub-
7 section (b) of such section 561;

8 (iii) \$2,500,000 shall be available for
9 an initiative to provide technical assistance
10 and training to such organizations and en-
11 tities regarding fair housing issues related
12 to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

13 (iv) \$10,000,000, which shall remain
14 available until September 30, 2024, shall
15 be available for the Office of Fair Housing
16 and Equal Opportunity of the Department
17 of Housing and Urban Development to
18 carry out a national media campaign to
19 educate the public of increased housing
20 rights during COVID-19 emergency period,
21 that provides that information and mate-
22 rials used in such campaign are avail-
23 able—

1 (I) in the languages used by com-
2 munities with limited English pro-
3 ficiency; and

4 (II) to persons with disabilities.

5 (B) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2021 for
6 the Fair Housing Assistance Program under
7 the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.).

8 (2) USE OF TELEPHONE AND INTERNET CAPA-
9 BILITIES.—Amounts made available by paragraph
10 (1) may be used by such organizations and agencies
11 to establish the capacity to and to carry out activi-
12 ties and services by telephone and online means, in-
13 cluding for individuals with limited English pro-
14 ficiency and individuals with a disability in accord-
15 ance with requirements under the Americans With
16 Disabilities Act of 1990.

17 (3) PRIORITY FOR PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT INI-
18 TIATIVES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In entering
19 into contracts for private enforcement initiatives
20 under 561(b) of the Housing and Community Devel-
21 opment Act of 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3616a(b)) using
22 amounts made available by paragraph (1)(A)(ii) of
23 this subsection and contracts for technical assistance
24 and training using amounts made available by para-
25 graph (1)(A)(iii), the Secretary of Housing and

1 Urban Development shall give priority to applica-
2 tions from qualified fair housing enforcement organi-
3 zations that have at least 2 years of fair housing
4 testing experience.

5 (4) 3-YEAR GRANTS.—A grant for any grantee
6 from any amounts made available by clause (i), (ii),
7 or (iii) of paragraph (1)(A) shall be made for a 3-
8 year period, subject to the request of the grantee,
9 and the grantee shall receive an allocation of such
10 grant amounts annually during such 3-year period.

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