

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7123

To require the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study to identify barriers to reducing homelessness by providing housing assistance under the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2022

Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GREEN of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study to identify barriers to reducing homelessness by providing housing assistance under the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs, 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 “Studying Barriers to
5 Homelessness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON REDUCING HOME-**
2 **LESSNESS THROUGH PUBLIC HOUSING AND**
3 **SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE.**

4 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
5 States shall conduct a study to identify any barriers that
6 limit the ability of a public housing agency in attempting
7 to provide housing assistance under the Public Housing
8 and Housing Choice Voucher programs under title I of
9 the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437
10 et seq.) for populations experiencing homelessness, which
11 shall include—

12 (1) identification of any laws, regulations, and
13 any other notices or guidance pertaining to—

14 (A) waiting lists, documentation require-
15 ments, or tenant screening that effect the abil-
16 ity of a public housing agency to accept persons
17 and families experiencing homelessness into the
18 public housing or voucher program; and

19 (B) funding formulas and performance
20 measures that may penalize public housing
21 agencies trying to serve persons and families
22 experiencing homelessness;

23 (2) analyzing and determining the effect of the
24 limitation under section 8(o)(13)(B) of the United
25 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
26 1437f(o)(13)(B); relating to the maximum amount

1 of housing voucher assistance that a public housing
2 agency may use for project-based assistance) has on
3 the ability of public housing agencies to serve per-
4 sons and families experiencing homelessness; and

5 (3) identification of barriers to fair housing and
6 the coordination of Federal housing assistance and
7 homelessness funds, including outreach and mar-
8 keting of such funds, to affirmatively further fair
9 housing for protected classes under the Fair Hous-
10 ing Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) that are
11 disproportionately experiencing homelessness.

12 (b) REPORT.—Not later than the expiration of the
13 12-month period beginning on the date of the enactment
14 of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report
15 to the Congress describing the study conducted pursuant
16 to subsection (a) and setting forth the results and conclu-
17 sions of the study.

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