

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6806

To suspend certain requirements under the public housing and housing choice voucher programs during the COVID-19 emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Ms. WATERS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To suspend certain requirements under the public housing and housing choice voucher programs during the COVID-19 emergency, 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 “COVID-19 Emergency
5 Housing Relief Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUSPENSION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, WORK,**
2 **PRESENCE IN UNIT, AND MINIMUM RENT RE-**
3 **QUIREMENTS AND TIME LIMITS ON ASSIST-**
4 **ANCE.**

5 (a) SUSPENSION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
6 sion of law, during the period that begins upon the date
7 of the enactment of this Act and ends 6 months after the
8 end of the incident period for the emergency declared on
9 March 13, 2020, by the President under section 501 of
10 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
11 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 4121 et seq.) relating to the
12 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the fol-
13 lowing provisions of law and requirements shall not apply:

14 (1) Section 12(c) of the United States Housing
15 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437j(c); relating to com-
16 munity service).

17 (2) Any work requirement or time limitation on
18 assistance established by a public housing agency
19 participating in the Moving to Work demonstration
20 program authorized under section 204 of the De-
21 partments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and
22 Urban Development and Independent Agencies Ap-
23 propriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–134; 110
24 Stat. 1321).

1 (3) Paragraph (3) of section 3(a) of the United
2 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(a)(3);
3 relating to minimum rental amount).

4 (4) Section 982.312 of the regulations of the
5 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (24
6 C.F.R. 982.312); relating to absence from unit).

7 (b) PROHIBITION.—No penalty may be imposed nor
8 any adverse action taken for failure on the part of any
9 tenant of public housing or a dwelling unit assisted under
10 section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42
11 U.S.C. 1437f) to comply with the laws and requirements
12 specified in subsection (a) during the period specified in
13 subsection (a).

14 **SEC. 3. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS.**

15 (a) SECTION 8 VOUCHERS.—Notwithstanding any
16 other provision of law, the Secretary of Housing and
17 Urban Development shall provide that—

18 (1) during the COVID-19 emergency period, a
19 public housing agency may not terminate the avail-
20 ability to an eligible household of a housing choice
21 voucher under section 8(o) of the United States
22 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) for fail-
23 ure to enter into a lease for an assisted dwelling
24 unit; and

1 (2) in the case of any eligible household on
2 whose behalf such a housing choice voucher has been
3 made available, if as of the termination of the
4 COVID-19 emergency period such availability has
5 not terminated (including by reason of paragraph
6 (1) of this subsection) and such voucher has not
7 been used to enter into a lease for an assisted dwell-
8 ing unit, the public housing agency making such
9 voucher available may not terminate such availability
10 until the expiration of the 60-day period beginning
11 upon the termination of the COVID-19 emergency
12 period.

13 (b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
14 term “COVID-19 emergency period” means the period
15 that begins upon the date of the enactment of this Act
16 and ends upon the end of the incident period for the emer-
17 gency declared on March 13, 2020, by the President under
18 section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
19 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191) relating to
20 the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

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