To authorize emergency rental voucher assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 1, 2020

Ms. Waters introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To authorize emergency rental voucher assistance, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Housing Voucher Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE VOUCHER PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the
“Secretary”), $10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, to re-
main available until expended, for—

(1) 200,000 incremental emergency vouchers
under subsection (b);

(2) renewals of the vouchers under subsection
(b); and

(3) fees for the costs of administering vouchers
under subsection (b).

(b) Emergency Vouchers.—

(1) In general.—The Secretary shall provide
emergency rental assistance vouchers under this sub-
section, which shall be tenant-based rental assistance
under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act
of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)).

(2) Selection of families.—

(A) Mandatory preferences.—Each
public housing agency administering assistance
under this section shall provide preference for
such assistance to eligible families that are—

(i) homeless (as such term is defined
in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento
Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
11302(a));

(ii) at risk of homelessness (as such
term is defined in section 401 of the
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
(42 U.S.C. 11360)); or

(iii) fleeing, or attempting to flee, do-
mestic violence, dating violence, sexual as-
sault, or stalking.

(B) ALLOCATION.—In allocating amounts
made available under this section, the Secretary
shall—

(i) not later than 60 days after the
date of the enactment of this Act, allocate
at least 50 percent of such amounts to
public housing agencies in accordance with
a formula that considers—

(I) the capability of public hous-
ing agencies to promptly use emer-
geney vouchers provided under this
section; and

(II) the need for emergency
vouchers provided under this section
in the geographical area, based on
factors determined by the Secretary,
including risk of transmission of
coronavirus, high numbers or rates of
sheltered and unsheltered homeless-
ness, and economic and housing market conditions;

(ii) allocate remaining amounts in accordance with a formula that considers—

(I) the criteria under clause (i) and the success of a public housing agency in promptly utilizing vouchers awarded under clause (i); and

(II) the capability of the public housing agency to create and manage structured partnerships with service providers for the delivery of appropriate community-based services; and

(iii) designate the number of vouchers under this section that each public housing agency that is awarded funds under this section is authorized to administer.

(C) ELECTION NOT TO ADMINISTER.—If a public housing agency elects not to administer amounts under this section, the Secretary shall award such amounts to other public housing agencies according to the criteria in subparagraph (B).

(D) FAILURE TO USE VOUCHERS PROMPTLY.—If a public housing agency fails to issue
all of its authorized vouchers under this section on behalf of eligible families within a reasonable period of time as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall reallocate any unissued vouchers and associated funds to others public housing agencies according to the criteria under subparagraph (B)(ii).

(3) W AIVERS AND ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—Any waiver or alternative requirement that the Secretary makes available to all public housing agencies in connection with assistance made available under the heading “Tenant-Based Rental Assistance” in title XII of division B of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 134 Stat. 601) shall apply to assistance under this section until the expiration of such waiver or alternative requirement.

(4) T ERMINATION OF VOUCHERS UPON TURN-OVER.—

(A) I N GENERAL.—A public housing agency may not reissue any vouchers made available under this section when assistance for the family initially assisted is terminated.

(B) R EALLOCATION.—Upon termination of assistance for one or more families assisted by a public housing agency under this section, the
Secretary shall reallocate amounts that are no longer needed by such public housing agency for assistance under this section to another public housing agency for the renewal of vouchers previously authorized under this section.